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COPING WITH BEREAVEMENT

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Menter Bro Morgannwg and GEM in partnership

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Cycling star's home town book signing

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'Bruno... Bruno...' SEE FRANK ON BACK PAGE



Stolen strip

POLICE in Maesteg are hunting thieves who stole a team's football kit from a garden shed on Tuesday, December 2. Around 15 Maesteg Park football kits – royal blue in colour – were taken from the shed in Bethania Street, Maesteg and a number of bottles and cases of alcohol were also stolen.

PCSO Louise Thomas said: "We believe that this was an opportunistic crime and we are hoping that this publicity might persuade the thief, or thieves, to return the kits. Anyone with information is asked to call 101, quoting reference number 1400450318." Crimestoppers can be contacted free and anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Pupils have standards!



ABOVE: Winning Porthcawl students (from left): Jack Bridger, Felicity Williamson-Sarll, Matthew Dang and Nat King, with teacher Sarah James and staff from BBC's Trading Standards service.

(SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 12).

PYLE DEATH: TWO CHARGED

SOUTH Wales Police have charged two people with murder following the death of 46-year-old Nicholas Tame, at a property in Monks Close, Pyle.

A 41-year-old woman from Pyle, and a 52-year-old man from Porthcawl, appeared at Bridgend Magistrates Court yesterday (Wednesday) charged with murdering Mr Tame.

Both were remanded in custody to appear before Cardiff Crown today (Thursday).

DCI Peter Doyle said: "I am appealing to the local community in the Pyle area, especially in the roads surrounding Monks Close, to get in touch with us, if they saw or heard anything in the early hours of last Sunday morning.

"This could be as innocuous as seeing someone walking the streets at around 4am to 6am."

Annual Christmas Swim could be biggest yet in its anniversary year!

THIS year marks the 50th anniversary of the Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim and organisers are hoping for a record number of swimmers to take part and raise cash for Ty Hafan, Sandville Self Help and other local charities.

With an expected 1,000-plus registered swimmers, many in fancy dress as either clowns or Vikings in memory of two of the former members of the 'swim', and thousands of spectators, it promises to be another great family Christmas atmosphere and another very successful swim.

Spokesperson Ian Stroud said: "We are already aware that friends of the swim are travelling home for Christmas. Several are travelling from as far away as New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. They will be joined by the many people who travel from all over south Wales and from across the 'Bridge' to enjoy a festive morning at Sandy Bay Porthcawl.

"The arrangements on the morning will follow last year's changes in that as swimmers

register they will receive their commemorative mug before the swim. Therefore, whether they have registered online or on the morning, they must come to the registration desk from 10:30am onwards. Swimmers will leave the Hi-Tide Inn and gather at the top of the beach for the start at 11:45am.

"The organisers are planning to have a 'start arch' erected on the beach, so that every swimmer will file through in a similar way to other large events. Porthcawl Coastguard will signal the start and veteran swimmers Vic Davies and Chris Hughes, both from Porthcawl, and the only two swimmers who have taken part in all of the previous swims, will lead the swimmers down the beach through the spectators".

He continued: "In the months running up to Christmas, our small committee have to work tirelessly to raise enough money to fund the cost of the swim, the souvenir programmes and the much sought-after swim mugs.

"The main aim of the 'swim' is to raise as much money as possible for our chosen charities, therefore we are relying on the public to help, either by swimming and getting

sponsorship to support us or, if you are a spectator, by giving generously to our bucket collection.

"The more money we collect, the more we can give away. We are also appealing for the general public to support us as marshals. Details of how to register an interest can be found on our website."

Chairman Nicola Willis said: "This year the 'swim' committee has chosen to donate money collected to Ty Hafan, who help children with life limiting illnesses, and Sandville Self Help Group, who support people with serious illnesses and their families.

"Our promise is to give every penny that is collected on Christmas morning via the bucket collection and through swimmers' sponsorship to our chosen beneficiaries.

"Sponsorship forms are available from our website: www.christmasswim.org – or at the town council offices, Jane's Cards in John Street and Porthcawl Library."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

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PRAISE FOR CARERS' SERVICES IN BRIDGEND



ABOVE: Kate Hughes, with the Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Gary Thomas, at the event.

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales' team has joined a variety of organisations at a special carers event in Bridgend.

During the event at the Bridgend Carers Centre on Park Street, the commissioner's team chatted with 30 carers - a mixture of people who care for a partner or parent, and also older people who are cared for themselves.

The commissioner's team discussed a number of issues, including concerns over how proposed council mergers could affect the services they rely upon, and some of the great work that is being done locally to help carers.

Much of this support is provided through Bridgend Carers Centre, which runs a drop-in café every Wednesday for people to enjoy lunch, chat with fellow carers and get information on a variety of topics.

Part of the charity's work is helping to raise awareness of carers issues among GPs in the local authority area and nurses at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

The centre also runs a regular programme of activities, including

cinema nights, walking trips, theatre visits and outings.

The commissioner's team joined the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Coun Gary Thomas, and representatives of organisations such as Crossroads Care, the Stroke Association and Bridgend Young Carers at the special information event.

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, said: "Without the care provided by unpaid carers in Wales, many of our statutory services would struggle to cope, which is why carers should be seen and treated as one of our greatest assets."

"To allow them to continue to provide care to loved ones, which isn't always easy, it is essential that support networks exist."

The visit to Bridgend formed part of the commissioner's engagement roadshow, which has met thousands of older people during the past year.

For further details about the Engagement Roadshow, and to find out more about the work of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, visit www.olderpeoplewales.co.uk.

Services at St Theodore's

THE services and events on at St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill, this Christmas season are:

Sunday, December 14 at 3pm, traditional carol service with the choirs of Mynydd Cyffig Infant and Junior schools.

On Sunday, December 21 at 3pm, Christmas Messy Church.

On Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24: at 4pm, Crib service; 11.30pm, Midnight Mass and blessing of the crib.

On Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25 at 10am, family Eucharist and carols.

Surprise, surprise for Air Cadet Dan!

MAESTEG Air Cadet Dan Mably had a big surprise at a recent parade in Pencoed when he heard his name called out, and in front of the parade of cadets from No 3 Welsh Wing Air Training Corps, Air Vice Marshal Brian Lucas promoted him to Cadet Warrant Officer.

Dan has been an Air Cadet since 2008 and during his service has risen through the ranks from Cadet through to Cadet Flight Sergeant before this promotion.

He has also completed the Air Cadet training syllabus and is classified an Instructor Cadet.

During his time with 631 (Maesteg) Squadron

Dan has gained his youth first aid qualification and completed a Gliding Scholarship at 636 Volunteer Gliding Squadron at Swansea where he flew the Vigilant motor glider.

He is currently awaiting confirmation that he has completed the bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

As an instructor, Cadet Dan is now helping the staff at 631 with the training syllabus and as a Cadet Warrant Officer he is the most senior cadet of the Squadron.

The Maesteg Squadron meet on Tuesday and Friday evenings at their Upper Street HQ and welcome boys and girls of 13 and over.



Dan Mably receiving his award from AVM Lucas. Photograph by Fflur Phil Walker.

GEM READERS' LETTERS

Hip operation can make a huge difference

I READ the letter from J G Morgan of Pontyclun concerning hip operations, in The GEM, Thursday, December 4.

In June 2013, I was told by the team in CAVOC at Llandough that the waiting time was six to nine months for a hip replacement operation.

By the end of March 2014, I was still waiting, so I contacted the hospital and told them that I was in extreme pain, fed up with waiting and when did they think I would have my operation?

I also said I would keep contacting them until they fitted me in.

I eventually had my total hip replacement on September 3, 2014 and it is a complete success. I have been back in work for six weeks now and I haven't looked back.

It would be lovely if Mark Drakeford's 15-week wait would come true for others in a similar position of waiting for a replacement hip or knee, but all I can say is, if you don't hear from the NHS in that time, keep on at them.

They will soon tire of you and will hopefully do the operation you so desperately want.

It is the best thing that's happened to me in the last four months. It's wonderful to be pain-free.

Caroline Scott, Barry

'So many people came to my aid'

ON Friday, November 28 while shopping in the Barry branch of Waitrose, I unfortunately fell at the entrance and I immediately received help from the instore first-aid, who called a paramedic.

A member of staff found my husband in the store; they then put my shopping through the till, packed it and took it to our car.

I was taken to the A&E department of the University of Wales Hospital at the Heath, as there is no A&E at either the Barry hospital

or at Llandough Hospital. When I arrived at the casualty department, I was quickly seen (I was bleeding quite profusely) by a nurse, a sister, a doctor and other members of staff. After an x-ray, I was told I had broken my nose!

I would like to praise both Waitrose and the staff at Heath Hospital for the excellent care and attention I received.

The nursing staff were so kind and caring and do not deserve the criticism aimed at them by the general public. Well done to you all.

Thank you.
Mrs Hazel Morgan, St Athan.

MP joins Tesco fifth National Food Collection

RECENTLY, Tesco held its fifth National Food Collection, in conjunction with the Trussell Trust and FareShare.

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon was in the Bridgend Extra store to support the initiative.

It was Tesco's first week-long collection held in all their stores across the country between November 24-29.

Mrs Moon said: "The shoppers in Bridgend Tesco's were generous and supportive and everything they donated to the food collection, Tesco topped up by another 30 per cent donation."

"We have a tremendous problem, with more people coming to foodbanks for help. Across the Bridgend County Borough there

are now eight food banks feeding local people in crisis.

"If anyone needs help, frontline care professionals, such as domestic violence charities, health visitors, social workers, CAB, The Wallich and Job Centre Plus, can identify those in crisis and issue foodbank vouchers."

"Foodbank clients can redeem their vouchers for three days' emergency food and volunteers can talk to clients over a cup of tea or coffee to signpost them to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem."

Visit the Bridgend Foodbank website: www.bridgendfoodbank.org.uk to see how you can help with donations, food gifts or volunteering.

Welsh lutenist revives 'The Famous Weiss'

SILVIUS Leopold Weiss was one of the most highly revered performers of his generation and by far the most prolific composer for the lute, with some 600 solo pieces to his name.

A German contemporary of J S Bach, he was known in his lifetime as 'the famous Weiss'.

His flourishing career at the Dresden court was once threatened when a jealous violinist named Petit attempted to bite off the lutenist's right thumb - happily, he didn't succeed!

On a new recording, that 'glory' shines on the respected Welsh lutenist David Miller, who plays a selection of Weiss's sublime music.

David was born in Bridgend and brought up in North Cornelly, near Porthcawl, and his album is called 'The Famous Weiss', released on the new Timespan label, price £13.

Maths booming at Porthcawl Comprehensive

CONTRARY to the national figures, Porthcawl Comprehensive School is enjoying record numbers of students opting to take maths and further maths at A-Level.

Currently, there are an unprecedented eight students sitting further maths in addition to maths, with a record number of combinations of modules being sat.

By bucking the current trend and studying this dual maths option, Porthcawl students should be able to access the widest range of jobs and university courses and will qualify with two A-Levels. Current year-13 pupils hope to pursue careers in aerospace, engineering, economics

and computing, as well as physics and banking.

In some cases, universities have actually reduced their grade requirements in the knowledge that pupils will be studying both maths and further maths.

When asked why they chose the double maths option, pupils had various responses: "I have known that I wanted to take two A Levels in maths since I was in year-7," said year-13 pupil, Jack Way.

Dan Donnelly said that he was hoping to do a maths degree, so he would need it.

Rhys Mortimer commented that he had looked at all the available options and had settled on it, simply because he liked maths!

G McKenzie, maths department.

The 'Big Read' goes on tour

Bridgend Library and Information Service have been busy choosing the top 100 books of all time that they think everyone should read.

They've launched their 'Bridgend's Big Read' campaign which will see 100 of the finest books for all ages put on display at local libraries, with readers being challenged to tackle the century of stories.

Those taking part in the challenge can use a leaflet to record their progress, highlighting those they have already read, books they wouldn't read, and those they would like to read again.

After reading the books, participants will also be encouraged to list their own personal Top 10 and submit this to their local library, to form part of a display for Bridgend county borough readers' favourites.

For more information about 'Bridgend's Big Read', telephone 01656 754800; or email blis@bridgend.gov.uk

You can also like 'Bridgend Libraries' on Facebook, or follow @BridgendLibs on Twitter.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL DECEMBER 18)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
11 Thur	09.05	9.1	21.24	8.9
12 Fri	09.42	8.7	22.03	8.4
13 Sat	10.22	8.5	22.47	8.0
14 Sun	11.08	7.9	23.41	7.7
15 Mon			12.08	7.7
16 Tues	00.48	7.6	13.13	7.8
17 Wed	01.59	7.7	14.26	7.8
18 Thur	03.05	8.0	15.28	8.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

MAESTEG MOTHER IS SENT TO JAIL

A MOTHER of two has been jailed for two years at Cardiff Crown Court for carrying out a drunken attack on a friend.

The victim, Vicky Brian, was scarred for life, said prosecutor David Elias.

Rachel Lewis (26) of Railway Terrace, Maesteg, had admitted a charge of wounding.

Recorder Elwen Evans QC said that for such an offence, custody was inevitable.

Mr Elias said that on October 17, Lewis and Ms Brian, a man, drank two bottles of vodka in a house in Maesteg. Also present in the house were a number of children and at one stage Ms Brian went to check on them.

Lewis believed she was being talked about and asked what had been said.

"Out of the blue, Lewis attacked Ms Brian, grabbing her hair and punching her three times to the face."

Shortly after that, said Mr Elias, surcharge.

Lewis bit her right ear, tearing the skin.

The injured woman screamed: "Help me, help me."

Lewis then bit her left forearm.

Ms Brian grabbed her two children and ran from the house.

Later, Lewis claimed that she had been acting in self defence.

Ms Brian was treated at the Princess of Wales Hospital and referred to a plastic surgeon.

There has, said Mr Elias, been permanent scarring and a loss of sensation.

Ms Brian also had difficulty sleeping and moved from the area.

Lewis was said to have convictions for a public order offence and dishonesty.

Her counsel, Matthew Roberts, said: "She has no convictions for violence."

For years, she has been a heroin addict and been subject to domestic violence."

She was ordered to pay £100 victim surcharge.

Jury find rugby player not guilty of wounding

A RUGBY club captain has been cleared by a jury at Cardiff Crown Court of allegations that he deliberately punched his partner in the face.

It took the jury just 45 minutes to find Swansea RFC hooker Paul John (26), not guilty of a charge of wounding.

John, of Maple Walk, Porthcawl, had denied attacking psychology graduate Amy John, who

shared the surname of her ex-friend.

Recorder Timothy Brennan told John after the verdict: "You leave this court with your impeccable character intact."

The incident, the court heard, had left Ms John scared for life.

The defendant said he had tried to stop her from leaving his parents' home in Porthcawl after an evening socialising and drinking.

He said she had taken offence after checking his Facebook account and had kicked him twice in the groin.

He later told the police: "I would never punch her."

Ms John claimed the attack had been deliberate.

"When I found out that he had been chatting to girls, I was upset and just wanted to leave," she said.

John had told the jury that his eyes were watering after he was kicked in the groin.

He said his arms and hands flew out instinctively and accidentally caught Amy John in the face.

Maesteg light switch-on was a great success!

I WOULD like to thank all those who were involved in organising the switch-on of Maesteg's Christmas lights.

It was a memorable occasion, with the parade organisers and the people on the floats braving the cold to light up the lives of all who saw them.

Thanks must go to Huw Jenkins for co-ordinating the parade, as well as to traders and businesses who gave donations which go a long way to make this a great day, and to maintain the Christmas lights.

Thanks also to Frank and Richard from Centregreat who installed and designed the lights, and to our guests, Ogmere MP Huw Irranca-Davies and his wife, and the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Coun Gary Thomas and the Mayoress.

Gary is Maesteg born and bred and we are proud of this.

A special thank you goes to nine-year-old



ABOVE: Nine-year-old Ellie Shearan, who switched on the Christmas lights, with Maesteg Mayor Philip Jenkins.

(Photo by Scenic Gallery, Maesteg).

(See page 8 for more photographs of the event).

Ellie Shearan, the winner of the Christmas Parade poster competition – and she did us proud by switching on the lights.

Finally, thanks to all the parade marshalls and my fellow town councillors who worked hard to make it a great day.

The council's ice rink will be open until December 14, along with Santa's Grotto in the new Market Square.

Please come along and enjoy your day and may I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Coun Philip W Jenkins, Mayor of Maesteg

E-fit issued after a suspicious incident

POLICE in Porthcawl have issued an e-fit of a man wanted in connection with a suspicious incident in Porthcawl.

On Saturday, November 22, at around 3.15pm a 13-year-old girl was approached by a man as she walked down New Road, Porthcawl near Newton Primary School.

The man tried to engage the teenager in conversation, and began to ask her questions.

However, the girl refused to encourage the conversation and the man walked off down towards Mackworth Road.

The man is described as being white, around 40 years of age and was wearing a green zip-up fleece, black joggers and a black woolen hat.

Inspector Richard Weber said: "The teenager was understandably left shaken by this incident but was unharmed."

"We would like to reassure people that at no point did the suspect



make any physical contact with the girl. However, we are urging people to look closely at the picture and to give us a call if they believe they have any information which could help our investigation and locate him."

Anyone who may be able to help is asked to call South Wales Police on 101, quoting reference number 1400437184.

Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted, free and anonymously, on 0800 555 111; or via website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

PENCOED CONCERT

THE Mid Glamorgan Mixed Choir is holding its first ever Christmas concert at St David's Church, Pencoed this Saturday (December 13) at 7pm.

The choir's chosen charity this year is 'Cymorth i Cerys' and a donation will be given to support Cerys, a five-year-old girl who has quadriplegic cerebral palsy and has the hope of leading a more independent life by having life-changing surgery in the United States.

"The community of Pencoed has raised so much money for her, and we are proud to be a part of this," a spokesperson said.

The guest soloist is local teenager Charlotte Jones.

Tickets available at the door: £5 adults, £2 children; £1 for a lucky programme.

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Who wants to build what and where in the borough?

Paul Cox Skips – Plot 80, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle – Change of use from storage yard to a waste transfer station. Mr Robert Griffiths – 2 Bayliss Road, Bryncethin – Single storey and two storey rear extension and double garage with storage space above. Mr Alan Williams – 48 Beach Road, Porthcawl – Proposed roof extension to provide third storey. Mr Chris Davis – 15 Rhodfa'r Coed, Maesteg – Single storey rear extension, convert garage to study, extension to gable elevation and extension to front. Barclays Bank Plc – 5/6 Bank Buildings, Bridgend Industrial Estate – Relocate and replace ATM making good existing ATM opening and ancillary works. Mr G Morgan – 10 Glan yr Afon, Maesteg – Single storey rear extension and construct flat roof over existing store/WC. Mr J Grey – 19 Westfield Avenue, Bryntirion – Dormer extensions to front and rear elevations. Rhondda Cynon Taff CB Council – Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Unit 2, Felindre Meadows, Pencoed –

Obs for extension to current facility to accommodate additional business capacity. Redrow Homes South Wales Ltd – Plot 24, Afon Gardens, Brynmenyn – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory. Mr James Lang – 4 The Crescent, Aberkenfig – Single storey rear extension. Western Power Distribution – Electricity substation, North Road, Ogmere Vale – Proposed new 11kv switchroom building with associated changes to outdoor electrical apparatus. Green Frog Connect Ltd – Land between Cemetery Road and WPD substation off Cemetery Road, Bridgend – Installation of an underground electricity line. Mr Ian Spiller – 3 Carn Wen, Broadlands, Bridgend – Porch to front elevation. C J Construction (Wales) Limited – FMR RC Social Club and 23A Bethania Street, Maesteg – Construct three two-bed houses, 15 one-bed flats and associated roads, parking, storage and amenity area.

'KEEPERS' TELL THE TALES OF LOCAL BEAUTY SPOTS



Each 'Nature Keeper' has its own tale to tell which can only be uncovered when you download the 'Dare to Discover' app for your phone or tablet.

IF you go down to the woods, coast, or the local park this winter you're sure of a big surprise – as a number of interactive wooden sculptures have been created at beauty spots around the Bridgend county borough.

You may have already seen the windswept figure at Kenfig National Nature Reserve, the character overlooking Parc Calon Lan in Blaengarw, three frogs that have popped up at Frog Pond Wood in Pyle, or the boy standing on a sandcastle listening to a shell at Trecco Bay Holiday Park. There are ten in total and collectively they are known as the 'Bridgend Nature Keepers'.

The project has been officially launched by Carl Sargeant, the Minister for Natural Resources, at Maesteg Welfare Park, where a six-foot tall man and his dog stand as the 'Keeper of the Valley' among the trees near the pavilion.

The Nature Keepers project has been led by Bridgend County Borough Council, working together with local community groups. The Nature Keepers have been carved out of Welsh oak by local sculptor Dai Edwards, and each of them has its own tale to tell which can only be uncovered when you download the 'Dare to Discover' app for your phone or tablet.

Produced by the council's countryside and tourism team, the app contains interactive content, including poetry, videos and images, that only becomes available to the user when they are close to one of the Nature Keeper sculptures.

Urging people to download the app and go on a quest to find each Nature Keeper, Coun Phil White, BCBC's cabinet member for communities, said: "The Keepers are a fantastic way of encouraging us all to appreciate the county borough's countryside and green spaces."

"We are very fortunate to have a range of landscapes, from mountainous valleys to expansive beaches, and the idea behind the

Keepers is that they are the guardians of our land.

"The Keepers can be found at some of the most special places in the county borough, and they raise awareness of the importance for us all to look after our countryside for future generations. I would like to thank the many individuals, organisations and communities who have helped to bring this exciting project to fruition."

The Nature Keepers follow the style of the Keepers, sculptures that already watch over the river, garden, woods and meadow areas at Bryngarw Country Park.

Coun White added: "The sculptures have proven to be a very popular addition to Bryngarw Country Park, and the project has now been expanded thanks to funding from Capital Regional Tourism and Natural Resources Wales. I hope that local people and visitors enjoy finding the Nature Keepers and listening to their stories."

Carl Sargeant pointed out: "The Nature Keepers help to celebrate the countryside in a number of ways and as Minister for Natural Resources that is a key driver of a lot of the work we are doing in Welsh Government."

"These Keepers help to demonstrate the natural, economic and cultural benefits that can be achieved when the local authority and community groups work together. Projects such as this do a lot to help raise awareness of our beautiful countryside and green spaces."

Janice Gregory, Assembly Member for Ogmere, was also present for the launch event at Maesteg Welfare Park, and she was among those who were treated to a reading of the 'Keeper of the Valley' poem by Lynne Seal Harris from the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park group.

To watch and listen to the Bridgend Nature Keepers videos, please visit the 'Doing' section a

www.bridgendbites.com, while you can download the 'Dare to Discover' app for your smart phone to seek out the Keepers.



Pictured with the 'Keeper of the Valley' at Maesteg Welfare Park are Coun Phil White, BCBC's cabinet member for communities, sculptor Dai Edwards, Carl Sargeant, Minister for Natural Resources, and Janice Gregory AM for Ogmere.



The 'Keeper of the Fields' sculpture at Aber Fields in Nantymoel.



The 'Keeper of the Beach' sculpture at Trecco Bay Holiday Park.

'Have your say on future of transport'

MP FOR Ogmere, Huw Irranca-Davies, is urging all community groups, companies and individuals in his constituency to get involved in the consultation on the future of transport in Ogmere.

The consultation will help inform plans that will decide transport provision across the local area for the next 15 years.

By the end of January 2015 Bridgend County Borough Council will submit its Local Transport Plan to the

Welsh Government. This will set out proposals for modernising transport in the local area; covering everything from rail, buses, roads, to cycle routes and provision for pedestrians.

BCBC has drawn up a draft plan and everyone from the local area is invited to give their views on this. People can do so by visiting www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation. These plans cover major changes to transport infrastructure all the way up to 2030. The consultation period ends on December 31.

Christmas starts with breakfast in a tree plantation

REACH, the team promoting local food and producers in Bridgend, last week hosted breakfast in a Christmas Tree plantation at Pencoed.

The food, all local, was cooked up by the Reach team under clear blue skies, using leeks from Pencoed Growers, pasta sauce produced by Richard Morris of Pastamore, and fresh eggs from Cym Hapus, served on bread from Ogmere Vale.

It was followed by a selection of jams and jellies from Ty Mel Smallholding, washed down with coffee, roasted less than four miles from the venue by the Welsh Coffee Co.

Youth theatre's cast for Jekyll and Hyde show

AFTER their five star production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, Bridgend Youth Theatre, run by BAFTA award winning director Roger Burnell, are back next year with what is sure to be a sensational production of *Jekyll and Hyde the Musical*.

London, 1888, Dr Henry Jekyll attempts to separate good from evil with disastrous consequences.

Based on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale, with music by Frank Wildhorn and written by Leslie Bricusse, it promises to be another gothic masterpiece.

The part of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde will be played by Thomas Elliot in his debut performance with BYT, with Jack Davies as Gabriel John Utterson.

Jekyll's and Hyde's love interests will be

portrayed by Olivia Hopper as Emma, and Meredith Lewis/Ceri Anne Thomas as Lucy.

Gethin Phillips plays Sir Danvers Carew.

The stellar cast is joined by Hari Mackinnon, Lewis Coster, Owen Rhys Evans, Matthew Lee, Lewis Scott, Jack Beale, Ryan Davies, Kate Jones and Annie Jones as the Board of Governors, supported by Oat Jenner and Phoebe Lewis as Spider and Nellie.

It is a new take on a familiar story, and features songs such as 'This Is The Moment' and 'Take Me As I Am'.

Book tickets via the box office on 01656 815995; Wednesday, February 18 open dress, 7.30pm; Thursday, February 19 – matinee 2.30pm, evening 7.30pm; Friday, February 20 – matinee 2.30pm, evening 7.30pm.

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'Llanharan Hall a marvellous legacy' – SAYS OGMORE AM



ABOVE : The group at the opening of the refurbished Welfare Hall at Llanharan.

AT the opening of Llanharan Welfare Hal on December 6, Ogmores AM Janice Gregory said: "The refurbishment of Llanharan Welfare Hall is testimony to what can be achieved when incredible determination combines with tremendous

community spirit and generosity.

"Llanharan Hall has been at the very core of the community for over 70 years and has a very proud history. The hall was built from subscriptions given by the miners working at the village colliery.

"I'm confident this fabulous refurbishment has now

safeguarded the future of Llanharan Welfare Hall for another 70 years. Many congratulations to all those who have made this possible. What a marvellous legacy."

The refurbished hall was re-opened jointly by Janice Gregory AM and Huw Irranca-Davies, MP for Ogmores.

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Major John Lambert.



Private David James Watts.



The Iron Church.



The Esplanade Hotel

CERI JOSEPH, of Porthcawl Museum, continues her historical series, recalling life in Porthcawl after the outbreak of World War One.

THE shelling of Hartlepool, Whitby and Scarborough by German warships on December 16, 1914, was referred to in the 'Porthcawl News' as a new type of German warfare; firing on undefended coastal towns.

Porthcawl was beginning to feel vulnerable, yet, with a sense of relief, it was commented that "it is a long way round to Porthcawl."

Nevertheless, it is evidence that events experienced in different parts of the country, were clearly empathised with nationwide.

Although Porthcawl

was well away from attack, its involvement in the war was ever present. Huge numbers of recruits arrived daily into the town. By mid-December, the following battalions had, collectively, swelled their ranks to 1,256 men.

The 13th Battalion, '2nd Rhondda Pals', The 16th 'Cardiff City' Battalion, the Army Service Corps, Royal Engineers, Royal Field Artillery, and the Royal Army Medical Corps.

The total numbers required for these units would eventually total 5,000 men by February 1915.

Interestingly, two brothers were among the officers. Major John L Lambert of 8 Newton Villas, Newton, a past chairman of the Porthcawl Urban District Council, was attached to the Army Service Corps.

His brother, Harry, was attached to the Royal Field Artillery. Lieutenant Harry F Lambert was to survive the war, but sadly, 'Jack' died from

peritonitis, on October 19, 1916, while on active service in France.

Before the year was out, a new phenomenon, the 'Bantam Battalions', were to begin arriving. As a result of heavy casualties at Mons, Marne and Ypres it soon became apparent that the height restriction of 5'6", limited enlistment numbers. In December this restriction was removed.

Consequently, men of shorter stature were now able to join the colours. The 17th Battalion, 1st Glamorgan Bantams, began enlisting on December 22 at Porthcawl. By January 5, 1915, when the new recruits left Porthcawl for training at Rhyl, it had completed its target of 1,024. It was one of the fastest recruited battalions to reach maximum strength.

One particular recruit deserves mention. Private David James Watts, a farm labourer from Nottage,

who was one of the first to sign up on December 22, at the recruiting office in the Porthcawl Police Station. David, 20 years old, was 5'1" tall, weighed 8st 5lbs with a chest expansion of 34".

Within five months, he was discharged due to having Reynard's Disease, which restricted his ability to hold a rifle in cold weather.

Undeterred, he went to Cardiff and on July 19, enlisted into the 3rd Battalion, Welsh Regiment. Unfortunately, he was again discharged, citing the same reason, on November 12, 1915.

Having enlisted twice, which was against the law, one would assume that it was the end of David's attempt to join the colours. However, while searching the archives at Porthcawl Museum, I came across some PUDC Certificates.

Accompanied with a silver medal, these certificates had been presented by the

council, to either the families of the fallen, or to the serviceman on his return, of every combatant from Porthcawl who had served in the war.

There in a drawer, I found the certificate of a James Watts, now in the South Wales Borderers, who had served at the Somme, Ploegsteert and had been flamed, by liquid fire, at Cambrai.

Meeting his granddaughter, Sandra Wrenn, this summer, confirmed that it was the same David James Watts who had tried, so unsuccessfully to enlist twice before.

Sandra remembers how he could put his injured arm into a coal fire without feeling any sensation.

It can certainly be said of Private David James Watts that he was 5'1" of courage and determination.

The first battalions to leave Porthcawl, in December, for training in North Wales were the 13th Battalion, 2nd 'Rhondda Pals' and the 16th 'Cardiff City' Battalion. However, a

week before their departure they faced each other, on the Mercies Field, off New Road, in rugby and soccer matches.

The 'Rhondda Pals', were victorious in both; rugby 20-6, association football 3-1. The two battalions were to meet again, as part of the 38th Division fighting at Mametz Wood, in July 1916.

The troops that were billeted in Porthcawl were afforded much attention and support.

The entertainment halls offered reduced admission prices, church groups opened up their premises, in the evenings, for refreshment and social functions and the YMCA provided French lessons in readiness for their time abroad. Mr Wolters, the Belgian interpreter, was the teacher.

On the home front, the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade was organising parcels, containing cigarettes, cakes and sweets, to be sent to Porthcawlians serving at the front.

The local newspaper carried the official War Office advice 'All gifts must be dispatched at once. The latest date on which Christmas gifts can be accepted at Southampton is December 12.'

Following the giving of sweets and a toy to every Belgian child on St Nicholas Day, Mr TG Jones presided over the Joint Relief Fund Committee, involved in the Christmas preparations for the families of servicemen and Belgian refugees.

Mrs Charles Morris and her ladies group organised a Christmas tree and treat evening for over 250 on December 31. Comley's restaurant was to provide the tea; and the Esplanade Hotel was to hold the Christmas tree and present giving.

However, all did not go without a hitch. On December 30, Mrs. Morris was informed

that due to the arrival of men wishing to enlist in the 17th Battalion, the hotel was no longer available.

Fortunately, the old Iron Church, which had been sold to the parish of Maesteg, in preparation for the new All Saint's Church to be built, had not yet been removed. Permission was given by Rev T Holmes Morgan, to use the church for the Christmas tree evening.

The event had been saved. The Iron church was removed two weeks later.

Finally, the Porthcawl Intelligence Coast Watchers Department, mentioned in previous articles, was disbanded in December.

It became, instead the Porthcawl Volunteer Corps, to be affiliated to the London

Central Volunteer Training Corps. Local defence was becoming a nationally centralised operation.

Join me next month to read how the 18th Battalion, 2nd Glamorgan Bantams, become part of Porthcawl life to such an extent that after the war, their standard was presented to, and still hangs, in All Saint's Church today.

Events this month at Porthcawl Museum - 13th December, 'Carols for Shoppers' 11am-1.30pm; Boxing Day, Centenary Christmas Truce football match, kick off 12.30pm at Lock's Lane, Porthcawl.

For more information, visit our website porthcawlandthegreatwar.com.

CERI JOSEPH,
Porthcawl Museum.

CHOIRS IN FESTIVE HARMONY

A FULL church saw the choirs of St Mary's RC School and Bridgend Male Choir coming together for the annual music presentation to the church.

Bridgend Choir opened under musical director Rhiannon Williams-Hale and accompanists Stephanie Bailey (piano) and Scott Williams (organ). Popular items included Yfory, Pan Fôr Nos Yn Hir and the rousing Men of Harlech, contrasted with What a Wonderful World and Geraint Roberts' Amen before moving on to seasonal items.

The always popular First Noel, to the tune of Pachebel's Canon with its brilliant accompaniment set the scene, before tenor soloist Gareth Reese entertained the capacity congregation with the Austrian Carol.

Newer carols included Lyn Harry's Casachok, words adapted for Christmas by BMC's musical director.

Organist Scott Williams played In Dulci Jubilo, a traditional carol going back to the Middle Ages, before the excellent children's choir took to the stage.

The children's choir just gets better and better under their inspired music teacher. Looking smart in school uniform, the choristers sang a modern repertoire, the author's favourite being Celebration sung to a background of Caribbean music.

Both choirs wish their many supporters best wishes for the festive season. While the children can now focus on the countdown to Christmas Eve, the male choir is back in action on Wednesday at a sold-out concert in Tabernacle Chapel, Pontycymer, compered by the BBC's Huw Edwards.

David T Burt

Pencoed Cadets are honoured for 50 years' service to town



Huw Irranca-Davies MP with No 3 Welsh Wing ATC.

THE Ogmore MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, has joined with the town of Pencoed and local dignitaries to celebrate 50 years of the Pencoed Air Training Cadets who were awarded the 'Freedom of Pencoed'.

The MP, along with local Assembly member Janice Gregory, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Mayors of Pencoed and Bridgend and senior RAF personnel, took the salute from Pencoed ATC.

The cadets then paraded through the town, before receiving the official commendation in a service at the British

Legion. Mr Irranca-Davies said: "For 50 years, the Pencoed ATC has been at the heart of the local community providing training, helping young people develop their confidence and skills as well as serving the community with the values and ethics we have come to expect from these remarkable young people."

Porthcawl pilot looks at cutting food waste



ABOVE: Left to right: John Matthews, David Evans, Maud Jones, Ashley Drake and Michelle Hancock have been helping customers to keep their food Fresher For Longer to reduce food waste at home.

A 'Love Food, Hate Waste' campaign in Porthcawl has received support from the Welsh Government – in a bid to help families reduce food waste and save money.

A two-month pilot programme, carried out at The Co-operative's Porthcawl food store, saw over 500 customers pledging to make changes to the way they use and store food – which could save families up to £700 each year.

Shoppers at the Lias Road store were given Love Food Hate Waste 'Fresher for Longer' hints and tips to show how small changes in home food storage could help to cut the seven million tonnes of food and drink thrown away by UK households each year – more than half of which could have been eaten.

Love Food Hate Waste is now doing further research into consumer awareness, behaviours and attitudes to food waste and food packaging – the findings are expected to be revealed in late spring 2015.

Carl Sargeant, Minister for Natural Resources at the Welsh Government, said: "The message is clear; keeping food fresher for longer saves money and helps to reduce waste. "There are environmental and financial benefits to making the most of the food that we buy, and cutting unnecessary waste, in the run up to Christmas."

Gary Chappell, operations manager for The Co-operative Food in Porthcawl, said: "As a community-based food retailer we are pleased to have played our part in the success of this pilot programme."

"The campaign, which is designed to raise awareness on how even small changes in behaviour around packaging and storage could keep food fresher for longer, has received some really positive feedback. "We hope it will help customers to not only save money, but also to play their part in reducing the impact that their food waste has on the environment."

Emma Marsh, head of Love Food Hate Waste, said: "We are delighted that The Co-operative Food store agreed to support this pilot. "Packaging and storage are key factors in helping us all to reduce the £12.5 billion worth of good food that goes to waste in UK homes every year."

Festive lights switched on in Kenfig!



PYLE Community Council was again pleased to stage the annual switching on of the Christmas Lights last week.

Over 200 children and parents gathered around the cenotaph in Kenfig Hill to see the lights turned on by none other than Father Christmas himself.

Afterwards, everyone returned to the Talbot Community Centre where the children visited Father Christmas in his Grotto to receive their presents.

The evening was led by the chair of Pyle Community Council Coun Gina Hooper and Cheryl Butcher of the Talbot Community Centre.

It ended with a disco and refreshments."



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Maesteg lights up for Christmas with a great day full of excitement, fun and fireworks

THERE was a great deal happening in Maesteg last Saturday (December 6) when the Christmas lights were switched.

There was a Christmas parade, and there was ice skating in the market square, and the event concluded in the evening with a firework display!

(See page 3 for comments by the Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Philip Jenkins).



All photographs by
Scenic Gallery, Maesteg



ABOVE: The fireworks lit up the sky.



'Remove rusting sea mast' - CALL BY REGIONAL AM

A 180-FEET high mast, installed off the coast of Porthcawl as part of the ill-fated Scarweather Sands Windfarm development, is rusting away at sea – five years after the scheme was abandoned.

Regional Welsh Conservative AM Suzy Davies is urging Welsh Natural Resources Minister Carl Sergeant to pursue the private owners of the anemometer mast to make them comply with the terms of their licence, which stated that the mast had to be removed down to seabed level once monitoring of wind speeds was complete.

She said: "It was installed in 2003 and 11 years

later, is still there, despite the licence stating that it has to be removed. The risk is that it will just be allowed to rust away until it becomes a danger and then the taxpayer will end up footing the bill for its removal. That's not on."

Mrs Davies has already asked the Welsh Government's Marine Enforcement Team to investigate the terms of the licence issued in 2002.

She has also been in touch with the Minister who said earlier this year that removing the mast was the responsibility of the licence holder.

Mrs Davies went on: "That's all very well but who is actually ensuring that this licence condition is being enforced? At the moment, nobody seems to be doing anything."

Mrs Davies said that the name on the licence was United Utilities Green Energy but in 2004, this company sold its wind farm portfolio to Eon UK who were in partnership with Energi E2 to develop the windfarm. Energi E2 were then superseded by Dong Energy.

"It was Eon and Dong who abandoned the scheme in 2009, deeming it not commercially viable. They surrendered the sea bed lease back to Crown Estates after this."

Mrs Davies has taken this up with the Minister again and has been told that officials are trying to resolve the ownership issues regarding the mast.

She added: "These big energy companies must not be allowed to duck their responsibilities. They put the mast in place so they should pay the cost of removing it. I am determined not to let this one go. Companies should not be allowed to get away with blighting our coastline and then walking away."

"I want Welsh Government to sort this out and once the ownership has been resolved, I expect them to pursue the legal owner of the mast and make them remove it."

MP backs CAB policy team

OGMORE MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, has supported the work of Citizens Advice Bureau Cymru at an event in Parliament. The charity has launched a new policy team to focus on issues affecting consumers such as housing, energy and welfare changes.



This new team increases the size and scope of CAB Cymru, allowing it a greater focus on social issues across Wales. It recently published a 'One Day at a Time' report, which showed that many of the most vulnerable in Wales are being forced into hardship due to the changes to the welfare system.

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Tynyrheol
school
concert



NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL

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Community concert
THERE is a community carol concert at Pysgah Chapel, Kenfig Hill on Monday, December 15 at 7pm. More than 200 choristers are taking part, consisting of choirs from Cefn Cribwr primary school, Pil primary school, Ysgol y Ferch o'r

Sger, Mynydd Cynffig juniors and Kenfig Hill male voice choir.

Star of Wonder
I HAD the pleasure of attending the concert at Tynyrheol primary school, Llangeinor when the artists were children in classes 2/3.

The class teachers, Mrs Grabham and Mrs Bruce and support staff, deserve credit for their hard work with the children.

The concert was

entitled 'Star of Wonder', and was based on Christmas Eve when a group of children find a fallen star lying in the street.

Worried that Santa Claus may lose his way because the star was not in the sky to guide him, the children travel back to the very first Christmas night.

Cancer benefit
ON December 19 at 7.15pm in St Michael's and All Saints church, Maesteg there will be a Christmas concert with entertainment provided by Noteworthy mixed voice choir, Affinity a ladies choir from Cardiff and international opera singer Laura Parfitt.

Laura was born in Risca and was a pupil at Crosskeys College from where she went to the Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff achieved a first class Honours degree; followed by the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Dennis O'Neill Academy.

Tickets are £7 and all proceeds will go to cancer research.

Busy choir
OGMORE Valley male voice choir has performed in a concert in Bridgend to raise money for the Stroke Association.

It has also performed in a concert at Cardiff to raise funds for the Heart Foundation and on



ABOVE
Phil Davies
with his guitar.



LEFT:
Eira conducting
the audience.

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Friday it was again performing in a Christmas concert at St Bride's Church, Llansantffraid which I was fortunate to attend.

Its musical director Eira Paskin was also the compère and the accompanist was Gareth Waite.

The choir sang songs from its extensive repertoire, including items for a concert comprising 1,000 Welsh voices in the Royal Albert Hall, London.

One of the choristers, Phil Davies reminded us of the difficult situation some people are in, while he sang about the homeless in London.

On Sunday, the choir was performing in a carol concert in Heol-y-Cyw church; next Wednesday it will be entertaining residents at

Ty Eiren care home in Tonyrefail.

The choir rehearses at Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmogre Vale on Thursdays from 7pm. New members and visitors welcomed.

School concerts
TONDU primary school concerts are as follows: Foundation phase for classes Cynffig, Ewenni and Garw - December 15 at 2pm, December 16 at 10am.

Key stage 2 (years 3 and 4) for classes Llynfi, Ogwr and Rhondda - December 16 at 6pm, December 17 at 2pm. Years 5 and 6 classes Taf and Usk - December 16 at 2pm and December 17 at 6pm.

Bridgend Foodbank

IT was nice to be told that the charity received 99.4kgs of food from the harvest festival celebrations in the parish of Llansantffraid, Betws and Aberkenfig.

St Tyfodwg's church in Glynogwr donated 36.5kgs of non-perishable food, and this was enough to feed 10 individuals three meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner).

Carol services

THERE is a community carol service at St Tyfodwg's church, Glynogwr on Sunday, December 14 at 7pm, with seasonal refreshments afterwards, everyone is welcome.

St David's church, Betws: On December 14 the young farmers of Betws will be holding their Christmas carol concert at 7.30pm in the church, everyone is welcome.

Aberkenfig Square: Members of the public are invited to the annual Christmas carol song festival in the square on December 17 at 7.30pm.

Bethany Baptist Church, Nantymoel: This is the only premises at the top end of the Ogmogre Valley that still holds religious services.

On December 17 at 7pm there will be an evening of songs taken from the Sankey hymnal, everyone is welcome.

Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Ogmogre Vale: On December 17 at 6.45pm, Ogmogre Vale primary school choir, Ogmogre Valley silver band and the male voice choir will be performing in the Christmas concert at the Centre.

A TALE OF TWO DRIVERS

LAST Wednesday, my disabled mother was travelling on Boverton Road in Llantwit Major (adjacent to the rugby field) on her mobility scooter when, due to some uneven surface, her scooter flipped over and flung her into the main road.

It was by pure chance that she was not killed and we are thankful that she escaped relatively unscathed with only a few minor cuts and bruises.

However, our relief quickly turned to abject horror and disgust when my mother told us that a car travelling down the road just after it happened merely swerved to avoid her before continuing on their journey - leaving my mum, a 76-year-old registered disabled lady, lying in the middle of

the road. While we are appreciative that evasive action was taken by the woman who manoeuvred her large grey 4x4 so as not to drive over my mum, I had hoped that she might then have pulled over and at the very least check to see if she was okay and help her out of harm's way!

Unfortunately not: this woman obviously had places to go and people to see and continued on her very important journey.

Luckily, a wonderful lady who was driving behind the other woman immediately stopped to help and ensured my mum was okay before taking her home.

To that lady, thank you so much, we are so grateful. To the other lady - shame on you! (Name and address supplied)

Read your GEM online - visit bridgend-today.co.uk and follow the link.

Menter Bro Morgannwg establishes new partnership with The Glamorgan GEM

MENTER Bro Morgannwg has received a grant of £10,000 from the Welsh Government's Bwrw Mlaen 2014-15 Fund, and part of this grant will go towards developing the element of promoting and raising awareness of the Welsh language across the county through the digital and print platforms, by ensuring that there is Welsh language content in the local press.

The Glamorgan GEM is the Vale's biggest community paper, with 46,000 copies distributed every week to homes, workplaces and public places round the county, with an electronic version also available on its website.

Menter Bro Morgannwg is extremely pleased to be developing this new partnership with the Glamorgan GEM, and will co-ordinate and publish a Welsh language page in the newspaper once a

month, starting from January 8, 2015.

We are now, therefore, looking for an editorial team – so if you have any interesting ideas, or would like to contribute to this monthly page, please get in touch!

Contact fflion@menterbromorgannwg.org, 029 20689888; @MIBroMorgannwg; Facebook: Menter Bro Morgannwg.

Menter Bro Morgannwg yn sefydlu partneriaeth newydd gyda'r Glamorgan GEM

MAE Menter Bro Morgannwg wedi derbyn grant o £10,000 o Gronfa Bwrw Mlaen 2014-15 Llywodraeth Cymru, ac mae rhan o'r grant hwnnw i fynd tuag at datblygu'r elfen o hyrwyddo a chodi ymwybyddiaeth o'r Gymraeg ar draws y

Sir drwy rwydweithiau digidol a phrint, gan sicrhau bod cynnwys Cymraeg yn cael lle teulwng yn y wasg lleol.

Y Glamorgan GEM yw papur cymunedol mwyaf Bro Morgannwg, gyda 46,000 o gopiau o'r papur yn cael eu dosbarthu i gartrefi, gweithlefydd a manau cyhoeddus ar draws y Sir yn wythnosol, a chopi electronig hefyd ar gael i'w ddarllen ar eu gwefan.

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Rydyn ni'n chwilio nawr am dim golygyddol – felly os oes gennych chi syniadau am etemau diddorol, neu os hoffech chi gyfrannu at y tudalen misol hon, cysylltwch â ni!

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'Changing energy suppliers can be like banging your head against a brick wall'

MARKETS work best when they are properly supervised, managed and regulated.

If any aspect is ignored it can lead to chaos and a poor deal for the public.

The banks are a classic example. Poor regulation led to taxpayers having to bail them out and bear the burden for years to come.

What of the energy market in which price rises seem to take place with monotonous regularity? The theory is that competition between companies will drive down charges.

That relies on people being able to compare deals and switch supplier.

A few weeks ago I looked into the energy market and subscribed to 'The Big Deal' email which

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

champions 'collective switching'.

It negotiates on behalf of thousands of people to get cheaper energy tariffs than those featured on comparison sites.

The Big Deal did its job and came up with a potential saving of around £250 a year – worth the effort of switching.

I wanted to move from E.ON to 'extraenergy', so I contacted the latter to set the wheels in motion.

After 40 minutes on the phone to one of their representatives I thought I was almost there. Then they needed the 'MPR' – meter point reference number. I didn't have that on any paperwork, so I had to ring E.ON to get the number.

Extraenergy said they would ring me back on Saturday morning after 10.30am to finish the switch. No call came and I was busy that day so I re-contacted them the following Thursday, and was put through to customer services.

They could not find a record of the details I had left the previous Thursday. When I did quote the MPR, they told me it didn't match my address. It related to a 'Plot 8' in Barry.

I explained that 'Plot 8' was where my house had been built 11 years previously. The woman was surprised the MPR had not been updated and matched to my address – something I thought had been done years earlier!

She advised me that only E.ON could match the MPR with my address and to go back to them. At this point I began to feel like a tennis ball in the Wimbledon final.

Information sought on Mametz Wood

July 2016 sees the centenary of the attack at Mametz Wood on the Somme by battalions of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, South Wales Borderers and the Welsh Regiment.

I am writing a new book on the subject and am seeking previously unpublished photographs of the soldiers who took part in this momentous battle, and any stories associated with their participation, for inclusion in my book.

If your readers have any such material I can be contacted via email: ninian27@btinternet.com or by telephone 07708 255295.

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The First Step to a Better Smile

Off I went to E.ON – did I mention that by now the deadline on my deal had expired? – and they said they could do this but it may take a few weeks.

I am currently not in a fixed E.ON tariff which means I am able to switch without a penalty – but in the meantime I am on a higher charge. So at the moment for me it's a lose-lose situation.

No doubt there are many people who switch with one phone call and have no problems, but conversely, there are probably others, like me, who feel that the process of switching is like banging your head against a brick wall.

Remember where this saga started? The notion that prices are driven down by competition. What if there are obstacles to people switching and not enough people can change supplier?

Prices continue to go up.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is steamed up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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'Please support our animal charities this Christmas!'

THE GEM is supporting animal welfare charities this winter and people can drop their gifts into our head office at Graig House, 53, E a s t g a t e , Cowbridge, and they will be passed on.

Among the charities The GEM wants to help is Maesteg Animal Welfare founded in 1985.

Jan Brady of Maesteg Animal Welfare, which does a huge amount of local work in the welfare of cats and dogs, explained that the winter months are a pressing time for local volunteers.

'At this time of year, many more cats come in to us out of the cold. We need donations of food and good quality bedding.'

Among other charities to benefit will be UK German Shepherd Rescue, based in Wales, Greyhound Rescue Wales, Heart Hounds, Animals in Mind, Many Tears, Lizzie's Barn Animals and Greenacres.

The following items are helpful: cat and dog food (complete bags or tins) dog beds (only good quality), dog and cat collars, bleach, pine disinfectant, mops, buckets, blue rolls, disposable gloves, heavy duty bin bags, hard brushes, dog toys, treats and biscuits, combs and brushes, towels, dog flea treatment and shampoos, and Drontal wormer tablets.

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Calendar aims to stamp out bullying



Winners Natasha Nott, Ayla Davies and Freya James with Mayor's consort Ms Kay Jenkins and Coun Gary Thomas.

A CALENDAR has been unveiled which uses local children's artwork to help stamp out bullying in 2015.

In a competition run by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) in partnership with the Bridgend Equality Forum and the 'Bridgend Says End Bullying' project, primary school pupils from across the county borough were invited to submit their designs for anti-bullying posters.

The winning creations were then selected for the 2015 'Stamp Out Bullying' calendar, which was revealed in a grand ceremony at Heronsbridge School last week.

Children from Plasnewydd, Tondur, Cwmfelin, Penybont, Garth, West Park, Cynwyd Sant and Nantymoel Primary Schools, along with pupils from Ysgol Bryn Castell and Heronsbridge, all gathered to collect the winner and runner-up prizes from the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Gary Thomas, along with surprise guests Morgan Allen and Jonathan Spratt from the Ospreys rugby team.

Following the ceremony, pupils also took part in workshop activities with theatrical group 'Mess Up the Mess' which focused on friendship, identity and working together.

The creative competition entries had been judged by members of the Bridgend Equality Forum, which is made up of representatives from statutory, voluntary and community



Winners Declan Williams and Zac Morris with Osprey players Jonathan Spratt and Morgan Allen.

organisations and is chaired by BCBC. The initiative was also supported by Bridgend Says End Bullying – a Big Lottery-funded and council-run project which provides training and support across the county borough to eliminate bullying.

The winning entries appearing in the calendar, which was distributed among the schools, were:
Ayla Davies, Ysgol Cynwyd Sant; Dafydd Hopkins, Ysgol Underwood; Ethan Humphreys and Owen Edwards (joint entry), Heronsbridge School; Connor Edwards, Plasnewydd Primary; Lille-Eve Cronin, Tondur Primary; Morgan Thomas, West Park Primary; Declan Williams, Nantymoel Primary; Zoe Boswell, Ysgol Bryn Castell; Freya James, Cwmfelin Primary; Ethan Richards, Garth Primary; Noah Bowler, Nantymoel Primary; Zac Morris, Penybont Primary; Wyatt Butcher, Penybont Primary;

Natasha Nott, Nantymoel Primary. Coun Huw David, BCBC's cabinet member for children and young

people, who opened the awards ceremony, said: "It's a sad fact, but bullying is something that the vast majority of people have to learn to deal with at some point in their lives."

"It has been said that every child either knows a bully, has a friend who has been bullied, has experienced bullying, or may have bullied others themselves."

"This calendar competition has helped raise awareness of the different forms of bullying and how we can help others, and hopefully the children will take these messages back to their schools and be more vigilant around bullying issues."

"I would like to thank all of the schools who participated as we were really pleased with the number of entries we received, as well as the fantastic quality of the artwork created by the children. I'd like to say a big well done to everyone who took part."

If you would like any information on anti-bullying training or support, call the Bridgend Says End Bullying team on 01656 754920, visit their Facebook page (Bseb events) or email the team at bseb@bridgend.gov.uk



ABOVE: Winning pupils from Heronsbridge, Ysgol Bryn Castell, Penybont and Garth with (from left) Coun Marlene Thomas, Ospreys players Jonathan Spratt and Morgan Allen; Coun Gary Thomas, Finola Pickwell of Bridgend Says End Bullying; Mayor's consort Ms Kay Jenkins, Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, Coun Megan Butcher and Coun Hailey Townsend.



Garth Primary runners-up with their winner Ethan Richards.

Bridgend team's triumph in Jersey



ABOVE: Kerry Baker, Justin Martin, Paul Burrows, Rhys Hulme, Gavin Stephens plus Kelly Hall, Phil Hall and their three boys.

RECENTLY, Kelly Hall, the manager of Bridgend Disabled Football Club, took a small team over to Jersey to compete in the Jersey Games.

This tournament is in its 23rd year and Bridgend DFC were the defending football champions.

After a rocky ferry crossing to the Island, the team took part in their first event, which was 10-pin bowling, a meet and greet session where all the players mixed, but the overall best result came from Bridgend.

Saturday morning saw Bridgend take on three Jersey teams and one

Bournemouth team in a five-a-side event at the soccer dome. After winning three games and drawing one, Bridgend won a very close final, beating Jersey A 2-1 to retain the crown for a second year.

During the afternoon, three of the team took part in the indoor athletics, and came out on top with yet another gold.

The final event of the weekend was a touch rugby practice with the

Jersey first team, and now it has been decided that as a club we will look at setting up a disabled touch rugby team as well.

Kelly Hall said: "The icing on the cake for us was the visit to Jersey Rugby Club, where they presented us a signed rugby shirt."

"A fantastic time was had by the whole team, and a big thank you to JSAD for helping us get there."

Porthcawl Comprehensive triumphant in a trading standards quiz

TEENAGERS from schools across the county borough displayed an incredible depth of knowledge when they took part in the Bridgend Young Consumers of the Year quiz.

Run by Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards Service, the competition saw the pupils quizzed on subjects ranging from consumer and legal affairs, to money and finance.

Students also faced questions on key areas of Trading Standards responsibilities, such as uncovering illegal tobacco and investigating the sale of counterfeit and unsafe products.

Ten local secondary schools took part in the competition, held in the council chamber at the Civic Offices in Bridgend. The pupils first competed in semi-finals of five teams each, before progressing to a final which included a quick-fire buzzer round and a high pressure 'Blockbusters' style challenge.

During the final, teams from Porthcawl, Pencoed, Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, Maesteg, Cynffig and last year's winners Brynref, all battled it out in the nail-biting contest.

A victorious Porthcawl pipped Pencoed by eight points, winning with 74 points in total. Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen came in third place with 58 points, and Brynref (55 points), Maesteg (53 points) and Cynffig (32 points) took fourth, fifth and sixth places respectively.

Sony UK supported the competition by donating an Xperia Tablet for the winning team, and McArthur

Glen Designer Outlet supplied slate plaques to the victors, as well as slate paperweights to the other students.

The Porthcawl team also received cinema tickets donated by Odeon. All students received a Sony USB stick and chocolates were donated by the Co-operative and Sainsbury's.

The First Minister of Wales, former Brynref Comprehensive student, Carwyn Jones AM, lent his support to the competition by sending a letter of encouragement and best wishes to all competing schools, which was read out to the pupils before the competition kicked off.

The champions will now go forward to compete in the Welsh Regional Final at Cardiff City Stadium in March 2015.

Success at that event would lead to the team representing Wales at a UK Final at the House of Lords in June.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School teacher Sarah-Jane James, who watched as the team secured the title, said:

"I am immensely proud of the team's performance and feel they deserved to be crowned champions, having put so much work into learning their revision materials."

"We came very near to winning the title last year, so I'm delighted this year's team was able to win a really closely-fought competition."

"The audience was gripped throughout the final as the competition was so strong, but the team dug deep and showed great determination to clinch the prize."

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Health board review after kidney organ donation tragedies

AN inquest into the deaths of two University Hospital of Wales patients who died following a transplant has concluded with the coroner issuing a narrative verdict.

Adam Cairns, chief executive at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "On behalf of everyone at Cardiff and Vale UHB we would like to send our sincerest sympathies to the families affected by this tragedy."

Darren Hughes, 42, from Bridgend, and Robert Stuart, 67, from Caerphilly died because their kidneys were infected with a parasitic worm.

The families of Mr Hughes and Mr Stuart were reported to be devastated and shocked by what had caused their loved-ones' deaths.

Mr Cairns went on: "This was a terrible incident, the like of which, has never been reported before. The transplants were carried out with the best of intentions, but ended in the tragic death of two patients. We are very sorry for their loss."

"Nothing we can say today will be able to undo what has happened, or ease the pain and loss the family and friends of these patients are feeling. We can, however, do all we can to learn from this tragedy and share what we found for the benefit of the whole transplant community, here or anywhere else in the transplant system."

"That is why the health board quickly

concluded it should commission Professor Chris Watson, a leading figure in transplantation, to carry out a full and vigorous independent review of what happened and what could be done to avoid it happening again.

"The health board has fully accepted and acted upon all the recommendations put forward in that report. It has led to important changes and improvements in our service primarily around how we discuss transplant and the associated risk with patients and relatives as part of a detailed conversation about the right option for them."

"We are also fully committed to working with NHS Blood and Transplant and other colleagues in the transplant service, here in the UK and internationally, to share the important findings from this unique incident."

"It is important to remember that this is a first of its kind tragic incident and that nothing like this has happened at the unit or anywhere else before."

"We are confident that the unit itself is safe and providing high quality care and are reassured by the results that show it has significantly higher than average survival rates."

"The unit has saved and enhanced thousands of lives through its work and it is the hope of everyone at the unit, the health board, the families involved and all those

working in transplantation that this unique tragic case does not jeopardise that life saving work."

Argiris Asderakis, consultant surgeon at the Cardiff Transplant Unit, said: "I am very sorry that two people have lost their lives and the pain and sadness that the families continue to cope with. I take pride in my many years working in transplantation and the people and families whose lives have been helped by the Cardiff Transplant Unit. Their words have been a great support and I am very grateful to them."

"Kidney transplantation is performed to prolong the lives of patients who suffer from renal failure. Although nobody could have anticipated this tragedy, it will live with me and I am deeply sorry for what happened."

Usman Khalid, clinical research fellow in transplant surgery, said: "I know that nothing I can say will help the families and I am genuinely sorry for what they have had to endure over the last 12 months."

"I believe that I performed my duties in good faith, to the best of my ability and within the limits of my knowledge. I believe that I had a good rapport with both patients and I was very fond of them."

"Everyone at the unit has the best interests of our patients in mind in everything we do. I feel we did all we could for both patients and we are all truly sorry

Supper concert full house for English Speaking Union

Report by Derek Morgan: photos by Heather March.

ONCE again, the Christmas concert and supper at Howell's School was a must attend for members of the south Wales branch of the English-Speaking Union, with a full house to delight in the carols led by the senior school choir.

Virtuoso violin and vocal solos from Katherine Jenkins and Sara-Jane Waters were complemented by a spirited rendering by the performing arts group of 'Let it Go' from Frozen.

The closing performance of the senior choir and guests rejoicing in 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' was worthy of choir master Gareth Malone.

Following a delectable supper provided by Sian Whitfield, members were literally reduced to tears of laughter listening to guest speaker Paul Marshall, who, in jocular terms, well maintained the standards of past speakers and members Wyn Calvin and Roy Noble.

Branch president Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards rounded off a memorable evening by expressing good wishes to all members for Christmas and the New Year.

Sir Richard Dearlove, former head of MI6, will be the next lunchtime speaker on March 19, 2015. Details from Derek Morgan, branch chairman on 01656-669129 or e-mail dwcaym@googlemail.com.



Derek Morgan, Dr Peter Beck, Lyn Beck and Dr Shang Ng.



Gerry Price-Stephens, Carole Kenefick, Dr Ian Campbell.



Dr Ian Campbell, Penny Jones and John Cory.



Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Peter Marshall, Roy Noble and Derek Morgan.

'Don't rush into a merger' – warning

THE Vale Council shouldn't rush into a merger with Bridgend, a Plaid councillor warned this week.

It followed a recent Vale cabinet meeting where it was agreed to ask the Welsh Government to begin talks on a voluntary merger between the two councils.

Coun Ian Johnson said that the tone and implications of the meeting were very different to those when the idea was initially presented to councillors in September, and said that pressure had been put on the Vale Council cabinet from the Welsh Government.

He added that neither the Welsh Government nor the Vale of Glamorgan had any mandate from the people of Wales or the Vale to make such changes – and that they should at least include government re-

organisation in their next manifestos rather than pushing ahead.

"Cabinet members wanted to talk about our strong links with Bridgend, but seemed to ignore the fact that the Bridgend county goes much further north – to Maesteg and Caerau, than just the town itself. These are areas which have very little in common with Barry and the Vale."

"While some people in the western Vale get their health treatment, shop and work in Bridgend, many, many more get their health treatment, shop and work in Cardiff."

"The reality, though, is that the Vale of Glamorgan has substantial reserves and is quite capable of organising its own affairs without a merger."

"We shouldn't be rushing into any decisions about mergers that we may regret later."

The GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre

Shane's owner died ...NOW HE DREAMS OF A LOVING HOME



SHANE is a 10-year-old Rough Collie who has found himself here with us after his owner sadly died.

We don't see many Rough Collies in rescue, so we are hoping to find a devoted fan who can give him a comfortable home in his old age.

He is a very sweet boy, but due to his age, does have a few complications.

Having been used to home comforts for such a long time, he is currently very confused

and depressed in kennels. Shane mixes well with other dogs and could live with a quiet dog.

He will need a quiet, adult-only home, with owners who will be patient with him and give him time to settle.

If you can offer Shane the loving home he deserves, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend; we are open 12pm-4pm every day, except Monday.

LINDA FEAGAN,
Dogs Trust Bridgend

Barry U3A news

A LIVELY discussion on individual family Christmas customs at Barry U3A followed a fascinating talk on links between Roman Saturnalia and Christmas, at its December meeting.

On December 4, 41 members attended the annual Christmas lunch at Barry College.

Sincere thanks to all at the college and we hope to see you again when the monthly lunch club pays a return visit on January 16.

The committee of Barry U3A would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year; the next meeting will take place on Monday, January 5.

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Out and About with The GEM

SCREEN TALK PICKS ITS WAY THROUGH THE FILMS THAT MATTERED IN 2014...

PICKING your favourite of anything is never easy, especially when you have to narrow down a whole year's worth of cinema into a bite-size chunk.

Worth a mention in dispatches are *20 Feet From Stardom*, a documentary about the lives of backing singers, Jon Favreau's delightful *Chef*, Jack O'Connell's star-making double punch of *Sturged Up* and '71, David Fincher's *Gone Girl*, Spike Jonze's *Her*, the joyously wonderful *Paddington*, *22 Jump Street*'s

deconstruction of sequels and *The LEGO Movie*'s awesome-ness.

In 10th place is *Dawn of the Planet of Apes*, a blockbuster sequel that surprised many by exceeding the good work of its progenitor; with Andy Serkis and Toby Kebbel's motion-captured performances reigning supreme, and director Matt Reeves delivering the scale, it was an impressive effort all round.

Ninth spot on the list goes to *Dallas Buyers Club*, the film that earned both Matthew McConaughey (who may be making another appearance further down this list) and

Jared Leto the male acting awards at this year's Oscars; but beyond the excellent performances was a heartfelt and moving story that pulled no punches.

Number 8 is taken up by *Blue Ruin*, Jeremy Saulnier's noir-inflected tale of a man taking revenge on a family responsible for the murder of his parents. Gritty and gripping, it was anchored by a mesmerising lead turn from Macon Blair.

The Grand Budapest Hotel is **number seven** on the list, Wes Anderson's multi-layered war-set comedy/drama one of the best works the writer/director has produced, with an all-star ensemble cast, led by Ralph Fiennes' wondrously magnificent Gustav H,

a pleasure to watch. Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* finds itself at **number six**, a film that managed to both visually stun and push your synapses, as his mix of relativity and space travel, anchored by humanity's need to save themselves, wowed audiences. While *2001* was an obvious touchstone, *Close Encounters...* was another key influence, the film his most Spielberg-ian.

Into the top five, and *What We Do In The Shadows* hovers into view, Jemaine Clement and Taika Waititi's mockumentary of vampires living in New Zealand one of the funniest films of the year, its idiosyncratic approach masking plenty of heart and emotion.

The Guardians of



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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the Galaxy are in **fourth place**; billed as Marvel's biggest gamble, it has ended up being one of Marvel's biggest hits, thanks in no small part to the achievements of director James Gunn, whose lack of

background in big budget fare made him the perfect person to bring the film to screen, the film having a unique tone and sense of style.

With Chris Pratt's breakthrough performance impressing, and the ability to carve a beautiful relationship between a CGI racoon and a CGI tree who says only three words, *Guardians...* was a throwback to the blockbusters of yore, where story and characters mattered as much as the action.

Bronze medal time, and this is awarded to the Coen brothers' *Inside Llewyn Davis*, a film that was strangely snubbed come awards time, but ranks as one of the brothers' best films, as well as having (along with *Guardians of the Galaxy* and

Chef) one of the best soundtracks of 2014.

Oscar Isaac's sad sack lead performance as the titular singer/songwriter, eking a living and snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, was beautifully realised, the film a reminder of just how incredibly talented the Coen brothers are.

So close, yet so far, **second spot** on the list is awarded to *Nightcrawler*, Dan Gilroy's story focusing on the life of Lou Bloom, who takes up ambulance chasing for a TV news station with increasingly darker motives. A comment on the nature of 24-hour news, the American dream and how far people will go to attain it, the film was intense and darkly comedic, led superbly by Jake Gyllenhaal's

incredible lead performance.

Top spot of 2014 goes to Martin Scorsese's incendiary *The Wolf of Wall Street*, the true-life story of Jordan Belfort, who went from struggling to make ends meet to being a multi-millionaire thanks to becoming a Wall Street trader in the 1980s.

Essayed with no little aplomb by Leonardo DiCaprio, Belfort's story, egregious enough already, was given an extra sheen of excess by Scorsese, who hasn't been this fired up and hungry in years, the film both a celebration of hedonism and success, and a cautionary tale of how you can have everything and nothing at the same time.

Students' charity sale at craft fair

A GROUP of art students from Cardiff and Vale College sold hand-made Christmas decorations at a gift craft fair in Penarth

Pier Pavilion recently.

All money raised was split between Llandough Hospital's Breast Care Unit and 'Stepping Stone' at Velindre.

Selling a range of snow globes, porcelain and ceramic decorations, and festive wreaths, the students raised £416.50.

People were also donating into charity pots and these have yet to be counted.

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You will find the answer in that week's GEM which is available online and in print every Thursday.

Inbox us your answer and contact details. Competition closes at 5pm every Monday.

Every week a winner is chosen at random and will have £25 to spend with any advertiser in that week's GEM!

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What's on, and where in your area...

Lib Dem surgery

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding a local advice surgery tomorrow (Friday, December 12), when he will be in Pyle Life Centre from 2pm to 3pm.

Colwinston cinema

ON Saturday (December 13), Colwinston cinema will be screening *The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed out of the Window and Disappeared* in Colwinston village hall.

Based on the internationally best-selling novel by Jonas Jonasson, a 100-year-old man decides it's not too late to start over and begins his hilarious romp involving criminals, several murders, a suitcase full of cash, incompetent police and an elephant! Tickets are £6 on the door, or £4.50 in advance from *The Sycamore Tree Inn*, Colwinston.

Doors open at 7pm, with screening at 8pm.

Carols by Candlelight

ON Sunday (December 14), Cowbridge United Free Church will be welcoming the newly-founded Newport Boys' and Newport

Girls' choirs to Cowbridge, with soloist Oliver Barton, who sang in St Paul's Cathedral for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

There will also be a guest soprano and fun participation by the congregation from 5pm. The collection this year is for the Alzheimer's Society, which supports people with dementia and their families.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies after the service. Doors open at 4.40pm.

Caerau festive fayre

BRIDGEND Communities First will hold a free Christmas fayre and market at St Cyntfelyn Church, Caerau, on Tuesday, December 16 from 11.30am to 4pm.

There are free taster workshops on making Christmas wreaths, stocking decorations and flower arranging, a children's storyteller, Christmas stalls selling cards, decorations, jewellery, candles and festive treats and live entertainment with Caerau Primary School Choir.

A free soup lunch is also provided, giving the public a chance to have a say on training and learning needs in the community.

To book a free place, contact Andrew Collins on 01656 754894, text 07929 049645, or email Andrew.Collins@bridge

nd.gov.uk

Archbishop to lead services

THE Archbishop of Wales, Rev Barry Morgan, will lead the morning services at the churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan, in Barry on Sunday, December 21.

It is the last Sunday of the season of Advent, the preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and the services will include a number of Advent hymns.

The Archbishop will lead services of Holy Communion and preach sermons at both churches, assisted by the Rector of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan, Father Robert Parrish.

The service in the ancient church of Merthyr Dyfan, which is approached down Merthyr Dyfan Lane, begins at 8.45am and at St Paul's - the first Anglican church built for the new town of Barry - which is in St Paul's Avenue, begins

at 10am.

Porthcawl Parkinson's support group PARKINSON'S does not go away. It is hard to come to terms with; if you need support, it can be found at the Unitarian Chapel,

Nottage, Porthcawl.

Group talks include rationing during the war years, lifeboat service, exercise, speech therapy, and Romans in the local area.

For full information, contact 01656 783071.

Christmas Vintage Market

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Vale of Glamorgan
CF62 5TH

Saturday and Sunday 13th and 14th December

A Christmas Service

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at 7.00pm

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Pete of Llandarth, Gwent & Monmouth

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Yn ymuno
Chor Meirion Pen-y-bont

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Ffynnon, Llandarth, Gwent & Monmouth

Croeso i Bawb

Merger: 'people before party'

THANK you for asking for readers' views on the proposed local government merger of the Vale with Bridgend.

My view is that the Labour group in the Vale want to merge with Bridgend because they know that it would guarantee that the Vale is forever under Labour control.

The Conservative group want to keep the Vale as it is because they know that it is the best chance the Vale has of being under future Tory control.

Neither of them wants to merge with Cardiff because they know that the projected reduction in councillor numbers would be mostly applied

in the Vale. However, the choice we have is of merging with the rich, vibrant, ambitious, capital city of Cardiff, or propping up the social and economic deprivation in the Llynfi, Garw and Ogwr valleys in Bridgend.

To me it's a "no brainer." It's got to be Cardiff, but not surprisingly our councillors say Bridgend.

This marvellous opportunity for us residents of the Vale to become part of Cardiff is being denied by nothing more than the political and personal self-interest of the Vale councillors.

They must for once put the residents first in this important decision and not themselves.

Mr Cox, Barry.

'Cut councillors to save money'

THERE has been much discussion in your newspaper regarding merging councils and proposed salaries for AMs.

There is a need for some element of clarity over a number of issues. Should we merge with Cardiff or Bridgend? I do not have a particularly strong view either way, but find it strange that

people refer to the level of commuting from the Vale into Cardiff, shopping, or visiting the theatre.

Taking this view across south-east Wales would result in virtually all authorities being taken over by Cardiff, as the level of commuting into the city is higher than the commuting out.

Equally, given the sums of money spent on Cardiff Bay, Wales Millennium Centre etc. it would seem strange for it

not to be a focal point. Cardiff has 75 councillors, all paid a minimum of £13,300/year, which costs the taxpayer £1,285,500, the Vale has 47 councillors, all paid the same minimum, which costs the taxpayer over £841,000; and Bridgend has 54 councillors, all paid the same minimum, which costs the taxpayers £961,600.

Why not consider cutting the number of councillors to make major savings?

The same could be said of senior staff salaries, but one suspects that any merger will result in higher salaries for those at the top; in the same way that, during the last reorganisation, the salaries of the 22 chief execs looked surprisingly similar to those of the eight chief execs of the old counties, even though the new authorities were much smaller!

The AMs' salary increase was proposed by an 'independent' review. Headed by an ex-chief

officer of a local authority, this doesn't seem to be totally independent.

One must question the logic of a committee or group that concludes that the First Minister in Wales should be paid, for running what in some places would be described, by population, as a large local authority, a salary only a couple of thousand pounds less than the Prime Minister of the whole of the UK!

On a separate issue, I noticed the comments by our AM, Jane Hutt, about the benefits The Vale can expect from the new round of EU funding and the major achievements made with the previous two rounds.

It was noticeable that she made no mention of the fact that we were so successful in using the last two rounds of EU money (3 or 4 billion Euros) that we still didn't reach the cut-off point of 75 per cent of EU GDP!

(Name and address supplied).

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Councillor's plea: 'Fill in the questionnaire'

THE people of Rhose are united in their opposition to the council's proposal to downgrade their library to one which is manned by volunteers, as opposed to the current situation where it is crewed by two part-time staff.

Coun Jeff James and I support the view that this library must be kept open under the present arrangements.

We request that those who have not done so should complete the consultation questionnaire and dispatch letters objecting to the council regarding these proposals prior to the December 31.

Paper copies are available at Rhose library or the on line

version from the council website.

A public meeting has been organised to support this campaign at 7.30pm at Rhose Social Club on Monday, December 15. All are welcome.

Food for thought: Scrutiny Committee (lifelong learning) December 8, Agenda item 8: Background: The Council is a library authority under the terms of the Public Libraries and museums Act 1964 and, as such, has a statutory duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service."

There are many examples of unsuccessful attempts to run libraries using volunteers. **Phil Clarke, Councillor for Rhose.**

'Say something good about Welsh NHS'

FOR some considerable time now, the BBC Welsh news service has said nothing good about the Health and Ambulance Services in Wales, the emphasis being on the failings, and nothing complimentary.

Recently, the reporter for Welsh health affairs reinforced his findings by displaying the vitriolic headlines of the Daily Mail condemning our Health Service – this, from a publication with a well-known history of being anti-everything! More

impartiality from the BBC would not be amiss.

The failings and criticism of our NHS can always be forthcoming from those who would privatise or sell off our assets, such as our own Vale MP, or the leader of the Welsh Conservative AMs at the Senedd.

I find it hard to believe that when one considers the tens of thousands of people treated weekly throughout our country, only bad things occur, and never anything good!

Two further points to consider: much is said of people living longer these days – might our excellent NHS be a factor?

Many Service people have been sent by our Government to West Africa to combat the Ebola crisis, along with many volunteers – and where do the majority of these volunteers originate? Take a prize off the top shelf if you said the NHS!

In conclusion, as someone born in 1932, I am well aware of the health hardships endured by millions prior to the foundation of the NHS in 1948, especially those with large families.

Therefore, I would suggest any denigration of this superb organisation does not go down well with folk of that era. **Colin M James, Barry.**

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We are pleased to announce that a winner has been chosen for our competition for a deserving home to win a new carpet.

The winner and details will be announced in the Christmas edition of The GEM next week.



PUBLIC MEETING

Monday December 15, at 7.30pm

Rhose Social Club

Thanks to everyone who signed our petition objecting to the Vale of Glamorgan Council plans to downgrade Rhose Library. If you want to ensure the future of our valued library, we need even more of your support.

How to make your voice heard:

- Complete the consultation questionnaire (before Dec 31) making clear you disagree with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposals.
- Write a letter of objection to the Council
- Get your family and friends to also write letters and complete the questionnaire
- Come to the public meeting to hear why Rhose says NO to downgrading our library.

Website: saverhooselibrary.wordpress.com

Contact: saverhooselibrary@gmail.com

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Large crowds in Pontyclun greet Christmas switch-on



ON Tuesday, December 2, Pontyclun had its Christmas Lights Switch-On, organised by Pontyclun Community Council and Pontyclun Action Group (known as PAG).

The event started at 5.30pm with mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate, available at Cafe 50 in the community centre. There was also a



Victorian organ outside the Credit Union attracting the crowds and filling the evening with lovely Christmas music.

A little later, we had the lively Cor Tadau Choir singing Christmas carols outside the newly renovated Giles Gallery and a little later, the Pontyclun Primary School Choir, a renowned piper and another two local choirs.

The shops were all open until late and all had beautifully decorated shop windows with a Victorian or Christmas theme ready for the Victorian Fayre on December 6.

Ann Williams' Pharmacy display even featured a 'fireplace' with the warm glow of a fire! Another with a Victorian theme was at the optician's.

All shop windows were so pretty it is very hard to say which was the best. By 6.30pm the Christmas lights along the main road, as well as those of the Christmas tree, were turned on and there was even a short firework display going

on in the distance in the field by the memorial.

I have lived in Pontyclun for 13 years and I have never seen so many people on the streets of the village.

There were lots of families with young children in prams and older people all happily chatting with each other, watching the amazing displays of lights, enjoying the smell of mulled wine, the taste of homemade mince pies.

It was a cold dry evening, perfect for the event, allowing people to stay for a while. I joined with the others singing carols and it felt really good to see the community together.

Thanks to the council and PAG members for organising it and to all those taking part by providing the entertainment or helping out in some way.

The Santa fun run and Victorian Christmas Fayre organised by PAG are next, so there is still a lot of work in the build up to those events.

ALEXIA MEI



Llancarfan gets festive celebrations under way!

AN enjoyable evening of carol singing and celebration marked the start of Christmas festivities in Llancarfan on December 8.

The evening saw well over 100 villagers attend the annual lighting of the Llancarfan Christmas tree. The event was kicked off by special guest of honour Isabel Zehnder, the winner of Llancarfan Primary School's painting competition, who flicked the switch on the magnificent lights of the Christmas tree, that lit up the evening sky.

The singing was led by Sarah, Hayley, Jane

and Jo with hearty renditions of favourite Christmas tunes that rang throughout the village and Claire Williams kept us all warm with mulled wine, mince pies and treats for the children.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening and Max, Matt, Rich and John for putting up the tree.

Thanks must go to the Thomas family for allowing us to use their equipment, Sue and John and to the Archbold family, who are providing the power to the lights again this year.

All funds raised were donated to the Cerys Potter Foundation. **JF**



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is **NANCY DAVIDGE**
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Saron service
THIS year's Christmas service at Saron Chapel was well attended, the children playing a major part with songs, poems and music.

Before proceeding to the village hall, each child received a Christmas gift from Mrs Jill Ham.

I must congratulate the hall committee and their helpers for all the work involved in making the hall (if only for a short time) into a Christmas wonderland.

The final Christmas celebration at Saron will take place on Christmas Eve at 6pm, when those attending will be invited

to poem readings and carols.

Reminder
ST CANNA'S Llangan will celebrate at 11.15am on December 14 with carols in a traditional service, followed by sherry and mince pies. Everyone will be welcome, including visiting friends (Eucharist Christmas Day service will take place at 9.30am).

Young At Heart Club
THE year will terminate today (December 11) when members will once again travel to Porthcawl for their Christmas lunch. Club meetings will resume in the first week of January.

'EU funding is our money recycled'

JANE HUTT'S latest column was just one long encomium on the wonders of EU funding. But why is this?

She knows that this is just some of our own money being given back to us, large amounts having been lost – no audited accounts almost since Mrs Thatcher's time as PM.

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R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge.

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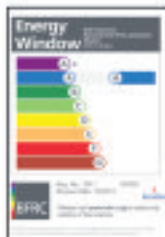

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same, as each loved one deserves a personal tribute.

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As a husband and wife team, Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis are not part of any large conglomerate of companies, so you can be assured of a service that is unique, professional and personal.

From the moment you contact us, it will always be

Lyndsay and Nicola that you will deal with and we will stay with you every step of the way during your difficult time.

It is worth noting that Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service is also responsible for Spicketts of Barry. W Spicketts are the oldest funeral director in Barry, having been founded by the Spickett family in 1837.

Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service's parent company is Pidgeons of Cardiff – another independent family firm with the duty of service to the bereaved, being firmly established since 1920.

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A funeral is very often seen as a celebration of a person's life and Park will strive to make the occasion, one of respect and acknowledgment of that person's life and achievements.

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We are able to organise special tributes by way of horse drawn carriages, motor cycle hearses of vintage lorries, should that be a family's wish.

A coffin with a theme or maybe an eco-friendly coffin are also options that can be catered for.

We make the funeral about that person, and that person alone. Your loved one will remain at rest at our premises in Barry.

Not all funeral directors can offer this and it is a question that you should ask.

We will make the time to sit down and talk with you and we have both male and female staff on hand, which sometimes offers bereaved families a degree of comfort.

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at all cost.

Some families like to prepare for the future and to those who do, Park Funeral Directors can offer a range of funeral plans to suit all pockets.

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SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS IN LOCAL METHODIST CHURCHES

DETAILS of some of the special services at Methodist churches in Barry are as follows:

Cadoxton Methodist Church, Friday, December 19 3.30pm
Christingle service; Sunday, December 21, 9.45am Cadoxton all age carol service.

Crossway Methodist Church, December 21, 11am, Lessons and Carols with Messy Church Christingle.

Saint John, Barry Island, 2.30pm December 21, Christingle and carols.

Barry Uniting Church (The Waterfront) December 21 at 5.45pm, Nativity service.

Saint David's, December 21 at 6pm, Carols by Candlelight.

Christmas Eve: Barry Uniting Church, 4pm Christingle Service; Saint David's Methodist Church, 11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion by candlelight.

Christmas Day morning services take place at most of the Vale Methodist churches.

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Merthyr Dyfan extends the burial ground

ON Saturday, September 13, Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery celebrated its 125th anniversary. The day also marked the opening of the cemetery extension, which will enable burials to continue for many years.

The section was officially opened by the Mayor of Barry, Coun Jeff Evans and is marked by a beautiful granite stone donated by Simon Morgan of Mossfords, whose

ancestors also donated the marble bird bath that welcomes you as you enter the cemetery.

The work on the extension was undertaken by local company R&M Dyke Civil Engineering.

Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery is the final resting place for many Barry residents and is a place of comfort to visit for loved ones, and therefore imperative to extend the life of the cemetery.

Barry Town Council



MERTHYR DYFAN CEMETERY

New octagonal planter.

Barry Town Council have recently purchased a new octagonal planter situated in the Old Garden of Remembrance. The planter contains plaques that can be purchased to remember a loved one.

Anyone requiring further information, please contact Barry Town Council on 01446 738663

AG Adams & Son are there to guide you

IT is a very sad fact of life that at some stage we will all be affected by bereavement.

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Robert Fouracre,

Funeral Director, is the son of the late Trevor and Vera Fouracre, well-known and respected funeral professionals in Barry.

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This may include establishing what assets and liabilities that person had and working out whether a 'Grant of Probate' will be needed to administer the estate.

This is a daunting task under normal circumstances, but for many people may feel a great deal more burdensome mixed with feelings of grief and distress.

Usually the first thing to do is to establish whether there is a will in existence and to make a note of the fact that the estate is to be distributed in accordance with that will.

A will may be held with the solicitor that drew it up or in a safe custody box with a bank. A personal representative is usually appointed in the will to deal with the deceased person's estate, also known as an executor.

A Grant of Probate is issued by the Probate Registry, upon the submission of certain information based on the person's estate. It gives the personal representative authority to deal with the deceased person's estate and

allows them to access money held in banks, building societies or other investments. It also authorises the personal representative to sell the deceased person's home.

Once all funds have been collected in and all commitments have been paid, the personal representative may distribute the estate to the beneficiaries as set out in the will, or if no will, then in accordance with the rules of intestacy, which are a set of rules setting out who is to benefit.

The personal representative may also have to deal with the payment of inheritance tax, if the estate exceeds the current threshold. Other responsibilities may include defending a claim against the estate, should this arise.

Passmores offers a sympathetic and efficient service when dealing with probate and estate administration.

If you live or work in Barry, Cardiff or the Vale of Glamorgan and would like further information, ask to speak to our specialist, Carli Evans, on 01446 721000; or contact ce@passmores.com today.



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■ Providing a comprehensive range of services to the bereaved, catering for all religious or non-religious backgrounds.

■ Working closely with families, Funeral Directors, Health Authorities and Voluntary Organisations, the Crematorium aims to meet the needs of the bereaved it serves with compassion, dignity and respect in a tranquil and sympathetic environment.

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Please address your enquiries to:

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Tel 01656 656605

Fax 01656 668108

coychurchcrematorium@bridgend.gov.uk





A cheque was presented to the NSPCC by Llantwit Major Tangent Club recently.

Tangent Club fashion show for NSPCC a 'resounding success'

THE recent fashion show, organised by Llantwit Major Tangent Club, raised the magnificent sum of £1,131 for the NSPCC and a cheque for this amount was presented to Emma Brennan, community fundraising success of the evening and event. SH

Samantha B of Ewenny provided a superb selection of clothes and accessories for the evening, which were modelled by Tangent members to rapturous applause. A raffle contributed to the success of the evening and event.

Busy days for 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade!



Masterteam contestants.

IT has been a very busy weekend for the company section of 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade.

On Saturday, four members of our company section went to Tewkesbury for the next round of Masterteam, the national Boys' Brigade quiz competition.

It has 10 rounds each of 10 questions, on subjects as diverse as the human body, flags of the Commonwealth, the Sermon on the Mount and music.

Six teams were competing for two spaces in the England/Wales semi-final.

After eight rounds, there were only three points between the top four teams, of which Llantwit Major were one.

Unfortunately, we were unable to finish in the top two, but Michael Ellis, Dylan Johnston, Morgan Edwards and Samuel Stewart should be congratulated.

Well done, boys, better luck next year! On Sunday afternoon, 2nd Bath visited

Llantwit Major for the next round of the chess competition and this again proved to be very close.

After the first two series of games, the score was three apiece, with everything to play for.

Sadly, it was not to be for the Llantwit boys, and Bath will go on to play Torquay.

Well done to Samuel Stewart, Zac Duffin and Jake Newton.

The company section will be putting on a performance of their interpretation of the Nativity on Tuesday, December 16 for all family and friends.

The anchor and junior sections will have their Christmas parties on the Thursday. We will then break for Christmas, before starting back in January.

If anyone is interested in joining Boys' Brigade, or would like to know more, telephone 01446 796208.

Mrs D. Chapman
Officer, 2nd Llantwit
Major Boys' Brigade

Cancer Research UK needs new volunteers

THE local Cancer Research UK Christmas Coffee Morning needs your help.

The committee would like to thank the people of Cowbridge and surroundings who have supported our events and collections during the last year.

Our latest event was the annual Christmas coffee morning on Tuesday, December 2 held at Quarter Penny Cafe which raised £1,403.

Thanks to Tracey and her staff, who worked hard to help make the morning such a success.

We are also grateful to many people who contributed to our raffle, gift and cake stalls.

Although we have a

loyal group of volunteers we are few in number. While most of us have been fundraising for Cancer Research for over 20 years, we need the next generation to carry on the good work.

If you are interested, telephone 01446 773742 for more information.

Though it's a little early, our best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to our supporters.

Lastly, a big thank you to The GEM for its continued help in publicising our activities.

Fran Davies,
Cowbridge Committee
Cancer Research UK.

Read your GEM
online, just go to:
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
and follow the link!

'This way for the belly dancing!'



Llantwit Major held its Lantern Parade and Christmas Illuminations event on Saturday, December 6, and amid the procession was this exotic, colourful group of dancers. PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY WICKS

War veteran receives his medal... AT LAST!

COWBRIDGE war veteran, Roy Williams, was honoured last week – when he was presented with the Ushakov medal for his service during the Second World War.

Mr Williams, a veteran of the Arctic Convoys, was presented with the medal at a ceremony in Cardiff alongside a number of veterans.

The ceremony took place after representation was made in 2012 by Vale MP Alun Cairns to the Russian Ambassador, who responded personally to invite Mr Williams.



The medal was awarded to Mr Williams in recognition of his service during the Second World War, and experiencing what Winston Churchill described as the "worst journey in the world".

Mr Williams had been awaiting news of the Ushakov Medal which he had applied for following a Russian Government decision to award a campaign medal for those Servicemen who had

taken part in the Arctic Convoys during the Second World War.

Mr Cairns said: "I am absolutely delighted that Roy has finally received his medal. I met him to see the medal, and felt proud that he had received such recognition, so I can only imagine how proud he and his family must be."

"It has been a long wait for such a decorated man who went beyond the call of duty, but I am pleased that he has now been honoured in such a way."

"It is a privilege to be in his company as I find his spirit and vivid stories truly fascinating."

"The people of Cowbridge are rightly proud of Mr Williams, and it is very pleasing to see his service has now been formally recognised by both Russia and Great Britain."

BRIDGE RESULTS

COWBRIDGE and District (Llanbleddian) bridge club

November results:

November 4 - 1st Myrtle Hansard and Mary Wallis 71.97%; 2nd Brenda Grove and Pam Higgs 58.33%; 3rd Pat and Brian Swain 58.08%.

November 11 - 1st Judith Nunn and Ann Miller 66.43%; 2nd Pauline Lane and Hugh Williams 57.47%; 3rd Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 55.84%.

November 18 - 1st Judith Nunn and Ann Miller 63.64%; 2nd Mary Thomas and Denis Barker 60.70%; 3rd Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 59.09%.

November 25 - 1st Brenda Grove and Pam Higgs 73.30%; 2nd Mary Thomas and Denis Barker 64.49 %; 3rd Helen and Mike Ruttle 63.07%. ME

'MAKE VIEWS KNOWN ON ST ATHAN LIBRARY'

PEOPLE in St Athan are aware of the proposals to relocate St Athan Library from its current central location to another, as yet unspecified location away from the village centre.

The community council met officers from the Vale Council last week and it is apparent that if the consultation now under way showed sufficient support for the library to remain in its current location, then that option would be considered seriously.

The community council, therefore, urges residents in St Athan to respond to the

consultation process and press for retention of the library in its current location.

The consultation

document is available in the library.

DAVID CROMPTON,
Chairman, St Athan
Community Council.

Local art society members mourn founder member

MEMBERS of Cowbridge Art Society are mourning the loss of a founder member, after the sad death of Margaret Rawlinson.

The society's retired president, Barbara Davies, told The GEM: "Margaret was a talented artist who won the Olwen Muir Cup in 1963."

"She was also a skilled potter, who sold her wares from a shop near the town bridge."

"She is survived by her son, Peter, who is a successful car design engineer."

Mrs Davies concluded: "Margaret's contribution to Cowbridge Art Society will always be remembered."

CATS PROTECTION'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE IS A GLITTERING SUCCESS!

A FESTIVE event at Cats Protection's Bridgend centre raised £2,200 for the charity, on December 6, with more than 300 people attending.

The Christmas fayre was a chance for people to meet and make friends with the adorable cats in the charity's car, desperately in need of loving homes. Santa and his helpers made an appearance at the event to the delight of the children, and there was a lot to see and do including raffle, tombola, and wheel of fortune, children's colouring competition and much more.

Suzy Davies AM went along to support the charity and said: "Another amazing event at the centre. I am so impressed with its rehoming record, the care the cats receive, and the commitment of the staff and volunteers."

Sue Dobbs, centre manager said: "We had great support on the day, so we'd like to thank everyone who came along. If we didn't receive such wonderful support from our community, we wouldn't be able to raise so much money to help needlessly homeless cats in the area."

Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is part of a national network of over 250 volunteer-run branches and 31 adoption centres that together help over 194,000 cats and kittens each year. The charity's vision is a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs.

Pictures by SUE DOBBS



Suzy Davies with centre staff.



Tilly-Mae Davies - one year old.



Amanda and Alice Darroch with Puss.



Team Bridgend CP.



Carys and Iestyn Pallister with Santa.



Kelly and Oliver Matthews.



Children's activity corner.



The Graham family.

Virtuoso's school masterclass

BARRY Comprehensive School was delighted to welcome concert pianist, Richard Meyrick on his return visit to the school's music department recently.

Richard's previous visits to the school left lasting impressions on his audience of music students, especially those brave enough to play for him. During the afternoon, students from year-7 to year-11, along with sixth form students, listened to Richard talk about and play music with equal passion.

Students performed their set pieces and accepted the constructive criticism with dignity and a fair amount of laughter.

Those performing included Oliver

Bartlett, Jason Grice and Jack Ollier from Barry Comprehensive School, and Claudia Perry, Kate Roberts, and Camille Danielson from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School.

Year-7 student Jack Ollier is currently preparing for his grade 6 piano examination and was the final student to play. Richard was so impressed with Jack that he offered him a scholarship to study in London as part of the Pianoman Scholarship Scheme. The scheme provides all expenses paid, free lessons with Richard at his acclaimed Piano Studio.

It was an immensely enjoyable experience for the students who were able to extend their performance skills under the close guidance of Richard Meyrick.

AC



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How box of chocolates became big cash donation!



Ian Hunt of Filco presents the cheque.

WHEN Laura McGreevy, a member of the fundraising and marketing committee for Emmaus South Wales, approached Ian Hunt of Filco in Cowbridge, she was only requesting a box of chocolates for a raffle and fundraising table top sale.

However, instead of donating a raffle prize, Mr Hunt put Emmaus South Wales forward for a donation through 'Making A Difference Locally'.

Making a Difference Locally is a charity launched to help independently run Nisa local stores to add value to their communities.

This resulted in a donation of £250 for Emmaus South Wales, which was presented to Mrs McGreevy by Mr Hunt on November 13, on behalf of their Filco store in Cowbridge.

The owner of Filco Stores, Ian Hunt, said: "We are proud to be able to support such a worthy charity and I am sure this donation will make a real difference to help people build their lives again."

"We believe it is important as a retailer to be at the heart of the community and to support those who need it most. We continually donate to local good causes in the area through Making A Difference Locally, and the more people who shop in our stores, the more money will be raised for the community."

For more information about the

charity visit
www.makingadifferencelocally.com/ADL.

AT Emmaus communities, formerly homeless men and women, called companions, live and work together in a supportive environment. The reasons for their homelessness vary; relationship breakdown, substance abuse, poverty, but all companions share a desire and drive to get a fresh start.

Companions often credit Emmaus as a turning-point in their lives, the point when they shifted from despair to hope.

Emmaus was established by Abbé Pierre, a former Catholic priest and French resistance fighter who opened the first community in Paris in 1949. Since then, this non-religious movement now has more than 400 communities worldwide, with 25 in the UK.

Emmaus South Wales will be the first Emmaus community in Wales, based at a former sheltered housing facility in Bridgend, which will cost £1.4m to renovate. Emmaus South Wales is currently fund raising to secure this £1.4m, but will fund the ongoing costs of running the community through its Social Enterprise. Its five shops are currently trading successfully and Emmaus South Wales will open more... possibly with one in Cowbridge!

For more details contact Tom Clarke, director Emmaus South Wales, at tom@emmaussouthwales.org.uk.

Stunning views on Far Hir ridgeway

ORIGINALLY, the weather forecast was good but deteriorated overnight and the 10 Penarth and District Ramblers who joined Clive for the trip up to Blaenavon, were met with dense fog.

Setting off past the Rifleman's Arms, they began climbing over some of the grass-covered waste heaps that litter the area, a relic of the industrial era when Blaenavon Ironworks was the main source of employment.

From Ball's Pond and tramping along muddy paths with the occasional sheep looming out of the mist they arrived at the grave of Foxhunter, ridden to victory on many occasions by Harry Llewellyn.

Making their way to the trig point on Blouenge for coffee, slippery rocks led down through the heather to the old tram road above Garn Ddyrys where surrounding and long distance views were hidden behind a blanket

of fog. Reaching Keeper's Pond and continuing on to Pwll-du to pass the water balance lift, then uphill past the Dyne Steel Incline, lunch followed on a disused tip before the downhill journey to Upper Brick Yard.

Then, taking a detour to view the southern entrance to the famous Pwll-du Tunnel, the longest horse-drawn tram tunnel in Britain, the group retraced their steps to Blaenavon for a swift pint at the Rifleman's before setting off for home.

The following day dawned bright and clear which was a bonus for leader Robin, who with spaniel Pepper took six walkers on a journey over part of the Black Mountain in glorious unexpected warm sunshine for much of the day.

Crossing the Tawe River, a long gradual climb led up to the ridgeway on Fan Hir from where there were stunning surrounding views and tramping along the fairly flat ridgeway towards Fan

Brycheiniog a patchy mist began to blow in from the west.

In order to escape from the coolness of the mist which surrounded the trig point at 802-metres, the group carried on making their descent into the valley below where overlooking the glacial lake of Llyn y Fan Fawr, a perfect stopping place for lunch out of the breeze.

Walking past the lake and climbing onto the rough moraine formed during the last Ice Age, they continued past Fan Fechan, which lies below the steep sided Fan Hir, on a tricky route through mud and rocks - to finally drop back down into the valley beside the Nant Tawe Fechan returning to their start point.

On December 14, a change to the programme - meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an eight-mile moderate walk from Chepstow, visiting the Eagle's Nest and the ruins of Piercefield House; contact William on 01446 747239.

JOY

WI SIGN OFF WITH PANTO

Rhose WI celebrated their Christmas social evening on December 4 at the Community Hall, when president Jenny Reed reminded members that the next meeting will take place on January 8, at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Stewart Road.

Resolutions will be voted upon, followed by a curling competition. The trip to Bath market will take place on December 11, the coach leaving Adenfield Way at 9.30am. The Christmas lunch will be on December 18 at The Victoria Inn, Sigginstone (12.30pm). The visit to the pantomime at the Memorial Hall, Barry is on

December 19, members to make their own way to the venue for 7.30pm. There will be no skittles or craft club this month.

After the announcements, the meeting got into party mood when supper was served. The WINOS drama group entertained with a Christmas panto, set in a home for retired pantomime characters.

The WINOS rose to the occasion, giving stellar performances all round. Barbara Goodway, on behalf of the audience, thanked the cast for a very entertaining show. The president then closed proceedings wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

JJ

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Movember torchlight walk raises £1,000 for Velindre



Left to right: Sam Osborne, Mathew Rowlands, Benni Schindehütte, Ferdi Schindehütte, Harold Schindehütte, Jack Giddings, James Edwards and Huw Rudall.

A GROUP of friends from the Vale and Bridgend challenged the norm on Saturday, November 29 with their 'Movember' effort to raise awareness for men's health and fundraise for Velindre Cancer Centre.

The group, led by James Edwards included Sam Osborne, Huw Rudall, Mathew Rowlands, Jack Giddings, Benni Schindehütte, Ferdi Schindehütte and Harold Schindehütte and successfully completed a night walk of 24km along the Vale of Glamorgan coastal path, starting

from Rhose Point and finishing at Ogmore-by-Sea.

The group navigated the distance in seven hours by torchlight, taking them into the early hours of Sunday morning.

Over £1,000 was donated towards Velindre Cancer Centre from the event, and generated an overwhelmingly positive response online, a spokesperson reported.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have supported Velindre, to the volunteers who supported us on the night and to the businesses that closely backed our campaign, including Trent Services, Reybah, Manuca, GTD Sports massage and Peak Supps Nutrition."

"We believe it would be a great idea to host an event similar to this again in the future and would love to see the Vale coastal path regularly maintained, so the routes are clear and safe all year round."

"See our donation campaign: www.justgiving.com/midnight1."

The Wales Coast Path covers 870 miles around the Welsh coastline. It is the largest continuous coastal path in the world, and it enables you to enjoy Wales' outdoor spaces to the max. (<http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>)

Your pet needs a winter coat, too!

WITH temperatures dropping and the first flurry of snow forecast for the coming weeks, let us not forget that our four-legged friends need to be ready for winter, too! Here the Dogs Trust, which has a rehoming centre in Bridgend, offers helpful tips to keep your pet safe and warm and avoid those winter hazards.

Let your dog's winter coat grow and, particularly if you have a puppy, short-haired or old dog, buy him a sensible winter coat – a high visibility coat will ensure your dog can be seen in the dark.

Keep your dog on a lead if it is snowing heavily. Snow can be disorientating so he or she can easily become lost.

Make sure your dog is wearing a collar and an ID tag and is microchipped. It is important to ensure your microchipping database is up to date with your address and contact details

Make sure you wipe your dog's legs, feet and stomach when you come indoors after a snowy walk as the grit from the roads can irritate their feet.

Never leave your dog in a car during extreme weather, hot or cold.

Do not let your dog walk on frozen ponds – the ice may not be thick enough to take his weight.

If your dog does fall through the ice, TT never be tempted to go in after him. If possible encourage him to swim back to you and call the emergency services.

Antifreeze is highly poisonous but tasty to dogs. Keep it well out of their reach and mop up any spills.

Says Dogs Trust veterinary director, Paula Boyden: "With British winter's long nights and cold days, it is important to keep both you and your dog safe and warm when you are out walking. Dogs Trust has 20 Rehoming Centres across the UK where all our canine carers work extra hard during the winter months providing blankets and heating to ensure all our hairy hounds are kept happy and healthy."

"We remind dog owners to follow the advice to make sure your dogs have a wonderful, warm and safe winter."

'Rights guide' for carers is launched

NEW Carers UK research has found that over two million of us will start providing care for older, sick or disabled loved ones every year and many will go without the vital advice and information they need.

Carers UK has Carers Rights Guide available at www.carersuk.org, which contains

important information on how to get support, including details on upcoming changes to carers' rights.

We're also ready to answer questions via our advice line. Readers can call 0808 808 7777 between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday; or email: advice@carersuk.org with any specific queries.

Helena Herklots, (Chief executive, Carers UK).

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Brynteg Comprehensive School's 'Tashwedd' team raises £300 for Movember charity



Left to right, some of the Brynteg 'Tashwedd' team: Deputy headteacher Mr R Hopkins, Mr N Reardon, Mr C Harper, Mr I Morris, Mr B Johnson, Mr M Copp and Dr D Jones. Not in the photograph but also valued members of the Movember team were headteacher Mr D Jenkins, Mr C Jones, network manager Mr M Gibbs, Mr A Hughes and Mr R Matthews.

SINCE 2004 the Movember Foundation Charity has run events during the month of November in order to raise awareness and funds for men's health issues – such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health

issues. This year, several Brynteg staff, both teaching and associate, set aside their razors and committed to supporting the foundation during November.

The Welsh translation of November is Tachwedd but the

school adopted the name 'Tashwedd' as it seemed appropriate in the circumstances!

The Brynteg team raised around £300 for this vital cause. Well done to the 'Tashwedd' team!

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY, YOU'LL BE SURE OF A BIG SURPRISE!



THE award-winning Wilderness Lake nature area in Porthcawl now has its own oak sculpture – Ceidwad y Llyn or Keeper of the Lake.

The oak tree was carved by Dai Edwards (dai@gno-sis.co.uk). Dai, a renowned chainsaw artist, was commissioned by BCBC and externally-funded to create a series of sculptures across the county borough largely from surplus wood left over after necessary countryside management activities.

Ceidwad y Llyn was welcomed to her location in an atmospheric night-time ceremony led by teacher and land artist Siobhan Grice (freshstart.grice@gmail.com) with the help of Kath Price, a holistic therapy and meditation practitioner.

The ceremony used Celtic and other traditions from across the world to celebrate the four directions in nature and brought together the elements of earth, wind, fire and water around the sculpture.

A haunting soundtrack of live music was provided by community musician Dave Murphy (merf_2K7@hotmail.co.uk); his traditional instruments included conch shell, bongo drums and didgeridoo.

The highlight of the event was a

reading of a poem specially written by Daniel Lock, the talented Ranger at Bryngarw House behind the whole Keeper project across BCBC.

Each of the Keepers tells a story about its environment: in a way, Ceidwad y Llyn is a portal through which visitors can access its natural surroundings.

In time, "going on the Keeper Trail" and searching out each of the iconic chainsaw sculptures hopes to become a must-do visitor attraction for the many tourists who come to Porthcawl and other parts of the borough. So, next time you visit the Wilderness Lake, come on over to the sculpture and share the experience.

The organisers of Croeso Ceidwad y Llyn wish to thank BCBC, V2C and Porthcawl residents for their voluntary support and making the event such a huge success.

Please follow these links (www.flickr.com/photos/moogan/sets/72157647066301674/) and (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jcdWSQcrj8&feature=youtu.be>) to view a slide show and some stills from Croeso Ceidwad y Llyn, which have been put together by Richard Morgan a freelance IT and multi-media consultant (infonode@gmail.com).

SA



Generous ABMU staff help homeless at Christmas

CHARITY may begin at home but the generosity of ABMU staff means it's also helping the homeless this Christmas.

Last year, two specialist nurses in Swansea launched a pilot Winter Homeless Appeal so colleagues across the health board could support others less fortunate than themselves.

It was such a success that nurses Pat Dwan and Janet Keauffling decided to run the appeal again this year.

They worked in partnership with two Swansea homeless charities, the Cyrenians and The Wallich, which arranged to pick up and distribute the donations.

The collections took place in Morriston, Singleton and Cefn Coed hospitals – with Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend organising its own appeal.

Pat said colleagues in the three Swansea hospitals, along with Central Clinic and the Oldway Centre in the city, once again donated hundreds of bags of items this year – ranging from clothes to Pot Noodles.

He added: "A big thanks to all staff for their generous donations to the Homeless

Christmas appeal, and to the hospital managers for allowing the collection at their sites. We really appreciate their hard work and generosity.

"All donations will be distributed in the next few weeks as the weather gets colder, and the homeless move into the night shelters for the harsh first two months of the year. Everything gets used and nothing is discarded.

"We look forward to the same again next year. Of course should you have something that you want to pass our way throughout the year please feel free to do so."

Pat said some staff who could not make the collection dates had offered to donate money, which would go towards the night shelters.

Meanwhile, Kirsty Lagdon of the Patient Experience Team at Princess of Wales Hospital organised collections for the Bridgend area.

Kirsty said: "This is the first year the Princess of Wales has been involved in a collection for the homeless at winter."

"I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff that have brought in donations and also extend my thanks to my colleagues who have helped me make the collection possible."



Kirsty Lagdon (left) with Maria Myers from Ward 14 at Princess of Wales Hospital, who contributed to the appeal.

Stagecoach performers in London charity gala



ABOVE: Young performers from Bridgend and Cowbridge.

YOUNG Charity. The Stagecoach performers from Stagecoach theatre arts took to the stage at London's

legendary Shaftesbury Theatre for a charity gala in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and the Performing Arts children's charity.

On Sunday December 7, the 'Performance Troupe' from Stagecoach Theatre Arts School in Bridgend and Cowbridge performed alongside guest performances from Horrible Histories, Britain's Got Talent star Charlotte Jacconelli and students from The Performing Arts Children's

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Dianne guessed 'Floss' correctly



Trevor Morgan with Dianne Radley and Floss. ON Sunday, November 23 at the Edmondson Arms in Cowbridge, landlord Trevor Morgan revealed that the name of the pub's spaniel puppy would be Floss.

The lucky lady who won the prize guessing the name correctly is Ms Dianne Radley, who received a bottle of her favourite rose wine.

The money raised for the Guide Dogs for the Blind was £84, which was a fantastic response once again from all the customers.

Trevor said: "A big thank you to everyone who supported another successful event at the Edmondson."

P.S. See if you can spot Floss around Cowbridge!

Christmas swim invite

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Nicola continued: "We thank all those individuals and businesses who help us in so many ways to be able to put the 'swim' on. We invite you to join in the fun either as a swimmer or spectator, come and soak up the festive family atmosphere. We are determined to build on the success of the event and don't forget, this will be your opportunity to say – I was at the 50th anniversary of Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim!"

The Christmas Morning Swim Committee hold the license to collect money on Christmas Day, therefore any collecting or raising of money at the event, other than by the official collectors, is prohibited.

MP

Operation Christmas Child sends off 25,000 gift boxes



THIS year's Operation Christmas Child campaign based at the Llandow Industrial Estate, Cowbridge, has drawn to a close with nearly 25,000 shoeboxes now on their way to Zambia and Belarus.

Thanks to the supreme efforts of many volunteers each shoebox was checked and sorted into age groups before being loaded onto the two lorries needed to transport such a large quantity.

Warehouse managers

Mr and Mrs Ted Bird and Mr and Mrs Roy Hibbert, together with volunteer recruitment manager Mrs Leanne Popham, wish to express their sincere appreciation to all those who helped and also to the many businesses on the Llandow Industrial estate who helped with the smooth running of this year's campaign.

Very sincere thanks also go to Mr James Mordecai of HRT Ltd and Mrs Karen Tilley of L E L Properties Ltd for making a warehouse available for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal.

TM

Photographer's journey of discovery in the Vale

AN English photographer, who came to Wales in the 1980s, has developed a passion for the landscape of the Vale and scenes of his adopted town of Barry.

When Callum Hamilton first arrived in Wales he had little knowledge of what lay to the west of Cardiff.

"I grew up in the London Borough of Bromley. In the early 1980s I attended a course at UWIST in Cardiff and that's when I first became aware of Barry and the rest of the Vale.

"In 2000 I moved to Barry and, because I'm a keen photographer began to build up a collection of landscape images of the area.

"A few years ago, the shop Gifted, on High St, stocked some prints and cards of my images and the owner suggested a calendar might be a good idea.

"I was reluctant to make the necessary investment of time and money but decided to give it a go when I was made redundant.

"The Barry calendar that resulted was well received and is now in its third year."

This year Callum decided to do a Barry



ABOVE: The lighthouse at the entrance to Barry docks.

2015 calendar and a Vale 2015 calendar.

"To broaden the appeal that much more, I ventured inland to take in locations such as Ogmere Castle and Cowbridge.

"Being a photographer and having these calendars as projects provides a great incentive to get out and about and enjoy the lovely scenery, sometimes overlooked, that this area has to offer."

Callum does have one gripe though: "I'm confident that there are many great shots still to be had although I would particularly like some

decent snowfall so I may top up my supply of traditional wintery images!"

The Barry calendar is available at High Street Post Office, the Lake Shop, Marco's and Selleys. The Vale calendar is in Cowbridge, Llantwit and Penarth bookshops, Nicola's Juice Bar at Penarth Pier, Llantwit beach café and WG Davies in Cowbridge. In Barry, Cwtch Coffee, Travellers in Mind and the Forest Café stock both calendars.

For more information go to www.callumhamilton.co.uk.

Cyclist Nicole supports scenic cycling route

VALE-based Olympic gold medallist Nicole Cooke is backing a new cycle route close to home that now connects Cardiff Bay with Bridgend – allowing enthusiasts to take on one of Wales' most scenic, but less challenging routes throughout the year.

The National Cycle Network, NCN88 in the rural Vale is supported by the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, funded by the Welsh Government and the European

Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

It has now been completed following £729,000 of investment from the Vale Council, and joins Cardiff to its scenic hinterland all the way around the Vale to Bridgend.

Nicole, who grew up cycling the Vale as a youngster, said: "I've been lucky to have such beautiful roads as my daily training ground which meant that even during gruelling training sessions, the views and rolling countryside always made it a pleasure to be out on the bike."

TY HAFAN LOTTERY

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D856:

● £2,000: 502036
● £10: 208124, 525055, 793926, 690541, 419317, 328281, 477943, 545045, 511425, 722932, 101907, 256158, 644021, 638029, 441050, 676280, 162794, 482448, 607600, 245496.

● £5: 490803, 791504, 173126, 291396, 882688, 310155, 240406, 615241, 880095, 274342, 755285, 674328, 478025, 944341,

156121, 970797, 342860, 811819, 129024, 574029, 723545, 833238, 845194, 283782, 956406, 737193, 797629, 561708, 580379, 875816, 318836, 161989, 764173, 874614, 371084, 735997, 750968, 811533, 493470, 612696, 139892, 233675, 590874, 553547, 687704, 489551, 173414, 770209, 183818, 758188, 753540, 902145, 137767, 814632, 606985, 731289, 626, 812, 1371, 1967.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Could you host an international student? Allech chi roi cartref i fyfyrwr rhyngwladol?

Cardiff and Vale College needs residents in the Barry or Rhos area to host long term international students.

Mae Coleg Coeddydd a'r Fro angen trigolion yn ardal y Barri neu'r Rhws i roi llety i fyfyrwyr rhyngwladol yn y tymor hir.

Many international students live with local people during their time at College to gain a taste of British life while living away from home.

A student needs their own room and meals provided, with hosts earning up to £110 per week.

Mae llawer o fyfyrwyr rhyngwladol yn byw gyda phobl leol yn ystod eu cyfnod yn y Coleg i gael blas ar fywyd Prydeinig tra maen nhw eddi cartref.

Mae'r myfyriwr angen ystafell iddynt eu hunain a phrydau bwyd wedi eu paratoi. Bydd y rhai sy'n rhoi llety iddynt yn cael hyd at £110 yr wythnos.

For further information please contact Cardiff and Vale College International Office:
Am ragor o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â Swyddfa Ryngwladol Coleg Coeddydd a'r Fro:

international@cavc.ac.uk +44 (0)29 2090 8004 www.cavc.ac.uk/homestay



VIFC maintain lead at the top of the table

THE VI's had threatened to let another lead slip but finished strong in Rhosne against Sully Sports to maintain their two point lead at the league table's summit.

VI captain Mortimore's brilliantly improvised overhead volley gave his side an early lead but Sully found a way back through a second half header.

Mortimore - who also scored in the reverse fixture - secured all three points for Bill Laing's side with just minutes on the clock as his squad threw everything forward to avoid a repeat of last weekend's Pumas slip up.

The league leaders were superior overall but Sully's goalkeeper thwarted every VI opportunity to double their lead. Mortimore, Rogers, R.Lewis and Robinson all seeing efforts saved.

VI management Bill Laing and Hywel Dark made two changes to the side that drew 2-2 last weekend with the returning James Austin making an impressive return from a year-long knee injury.

The game itself threatened to boil over but thankfully, it never went too far and it was Mortimore's two superb goals that grabbed the headlines.

The young striker's first came within 10 minutes and is a contender for his best so far this season. The Sully goalkeeper was unlucky to concede after his brilliant save pushed Mortimore's header onto the bar only for the ball to fall back to the VI captain. With quick reactions and great ability, Mortimore adjusted himself to send an overhead volley into the far corner and over a retreating defenders head.

VIFC needed to protect their advantage and, if possible, build on it but another defensive lapse as Sully equalised midway through the second half.

The back four of Robinson, Charles, Cox and Goodwin had held Sully at bay throughout the game without any real threat until the goal. Currently keeping his position between the posts, goalkeeper Rob

West could do nothing to prevent the close range header from levelling the tie.

The battle in the midfield was a running theme throughout the game with Garrison, Laing, Austin and R.Lewis all fighting hard to win possession and set up their front men. As the minutes counted down and the VI's threw everything forward, it was the composure of midfielder Joe Laing and Mortimore's clinical finishing that won the day.

Leigh Lewis' throw-ins are one of many attacking attributes of the winger and his throws into a crowded Sully box were causing the away side concerns. One of these caused a scramble with J.Laing's calmness in the box setting up Mortimore to fire home a winner with his left foot.

The win keeps VI Football Club at the top of the table, for now two points clear, but knowing Wenvoe Arms have two games in hand. Wenvoe continued to keep the pressure on with a 7-3 win over Barry Albion.

Man of the match went to Jordan Mortimore for his goals and work rate during the game with Sully's goalkeeper a close runner up; the shotstopper kept his side in the game with several top rate saves.

Team: R.West, J.Robinson, T.Charles, N.Cox, C.Goodwin, R.Lewis, J.Laing, D.Garrison, J.Austin, J.Mortimore, A.Rogers. **Substitutes:** P.Lucas, L.Lewis.

Our next fixture is against Cogan Coronation this coming Saturday, 2pm kick-off. The last time these two sides met, it ended 5-4 to VIFC in an absolute thriller with the lead being exchanged multiple times.

Thanks to our supporters at who turned up to cheer on the side in Rhosne and also thank you to our loyal sponsors. Owens Motor Services, Llandow. Higgsy Site Services, Barry and The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan.

RC

Llantwit under-12s in great form

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-12s welcomed Rummy to the Rec Fields.

On a windy day a close passing game was required to prevent any errors in a game Llantwit wanted to win after their last defeat to Rummy.

From the kick off Rummy's first ruck resulted in a quick try under the Llantwit posts followed by the conversion - seven points down in the first two minutes, it wasn't looking good.

Llantwit brushed themselves down and after a few words from the coaches started to move the ball along the back line.

This started to spread the opposition defence resulting in a scrum on Rummy's five meter line. From the back of the scrum the ball collected by scrum half Stephen Williams found its way to Jacob Pereira, who drove through the defence to score in the right hand corner. With the conversion successfully completed by Kieran Daw we were now drawing 7-7.

Rummy came straight back, but the Llantwit blitz defence seemed to push every attack backwards, forcing Rummy to make handling errors. One of these errors and a brilliant steal and drive by Sam Deere saw the ball passed up from the floor into the charging hands of Kieran Daw, who ran half the length of the pitch to score Llantwit's second try and his second successful conversion

followed.

Rummy, not to be outdone, started to string along some passes and a lovely kick over the top of the Llantwit defence resulted in Ewan Heywood being sin-binned for the remainder of the half for pulling down a Rummy player without the ball.

The penalty that followed resulted in a forward drive and try in the right hand corner; the conversion wasn't successful.

Llantwit were now a man down and only two points ahead, and it was now make or break time for the squad. Some good driving runs from Ethan Watkins, Jacob Hunt and Isaac McBride, supported by Rhys Lloyd, Cai Ellerton and Luke Thomas, kept the scoreline as it was until halftime.

With the squad back to full strength it was hopefully time for Llantwit to add to the scoreline, but the larger Rummy pack had different ideas.

Most of the calls seemed to go Rummy's way but that didn't seem to help them as they were camped most of this time in their own half. Brilliant tackling by the team and especially by one of our smallest players, Spencer Williams, stopped every attack.

A scrum was eventually awarded to Llantwit inside Rummy's 22 and this was quickly executed; with the ball passing quickly through the backs hands it allowed Ewan Heywood to come through on a lovely angled run to score under the posts, making up for his earlier yellow card, with the conversion completed by Kieran Daw.

Now on a roll and with Rummy's discipline letting them down, Llantwit were now in the opposition 22. With a couple of good phases of play and another steal by Rhys Lloyd and Cai Ellerton, the ball found its way to Kieran Daw, who sidestepped his way to the try line.

This allowed a lovely backline move of controlled passing which saw Conner Booker race half the length of the pitch to score Llantwit's fifth, and final, try of the day, with the conversion completed by Kieran Daw; final score 33-12.

Squad: Morgan Thomas, Jacob Pereira, Kieran Daw, Cole Saunders, Jacob Hunt, Kofi Jones, Stephen Williams, Jordan Griffith-Lee, Conner Booker, Ewan Heywood, Spencer Williams, Ethan Watkins, Rhys Lloyd, Sam Deere, Isaac McBride, Cai Ellerton, Tom Redfern-Hughes and Luke Thomas.

DB

Bridgend cycling star's book signing

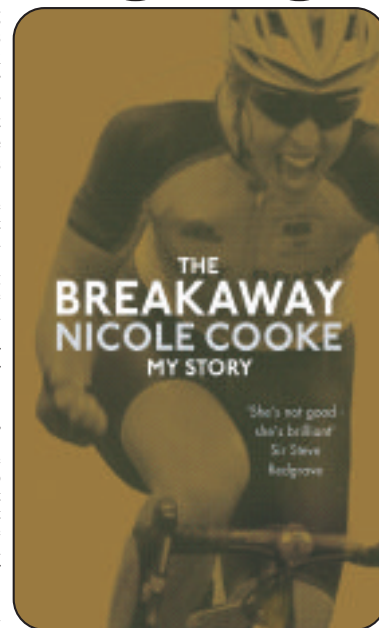
BRIDGEND cycling star Nicole Cooke is hosting a book signing of her autobiography, *The Breakaway*, at Bridgend Cycle Centre this Saturday.

Described by The Daily Mail as "the most substantial and impassioned of this year's sporting memoirs", The Breakaway was named The Sunday Times Sports Book of the Year 2014 and longlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year prize.

This Saturday, December 13, Olympic champion Nicole will be returning to the bike shop where it all started to host a book signing at Bridgend Cycle Centre where Nicole would regularly call in for repairs and spare parts during the seven years she rode to Brynteg School to get in as much training as possible around her school work.

Nicole went on to a spectacular career, winning world, Olympic and Commonwealth titles and became the first Briton to win the Tour de France in 2006.

In The Breakaway, Cooke reveals the real story behind British cycling's rise to global dominance and how with a child's dreams of success, she left home at 18 to pursue her goals in Italy.



Broken contracts, unpaid wages, a horrendous injury and drugs cheats were just some of the challenges she faced, even before she lined up to take on her opponents.

Stuart Thom, owner of Bridgend Cycle Centre, described how Nicole would call in at lunch times or after school to order parts or buy an inner-tube to mend a puncture. "Nicole was so driven at a young age, training in all weathers, so it has been a pleasure

to follow her career.

"We have the first British Champion's jersey Nicole won in 1996 framed and on display in the shop and hope it inspires other cyclists in the area to follow Nicole's path in cycling."

The book signing and chance to meet Nicole takes place 12pm - 2pm Saturday, December 13 at Bridgend Cycle Centre, Unit 1, Five Bells Road, Bridgend, CF31 3HW. Telephone 01656 766006.

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday December 2, there was a full programme of league matches.

The Llanharry Working Men's Club remain unbeaten, winning away 7-2 against the Old Post Ladies. The Edmondres B regained the second slot by narrowly beating the Hare and Hounds 5-4 while the Highwayman Inn lost 3-6 to the Edmondres A. In the other match the Edmondres C edged past the Farmer's Arms 5-4.

Present league standings after nine matches, are: Llanharry (64 points), Edmondres B (50), Highwayman Inn (48), Edmondres A (42), Hare and Hounds (35), Farmer's Arms (32),

Edmondres C (31) and Old Post Ladies (20).

Next week, Tuesday, December 16, in the last evening of matches before the Christmas and New Year break, the Edmondres Arms will host the first rounds of the CBT.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. Note all teams can register new players until the New Year so there is still time if you wish to play darts this season - get in touch.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apns.co.uk.

PJT

Seaview Lads results

JUST as we were making space in the freezers for the glut of fish, results have dropped from bountiful catches to barren weights.

At the last match in November the top seven anglers weighed in almost 100lb between them, while the total weights for the first two matches in December saw less than 6lb of fish landed in total!

Credit must go to the

determined lads that have persevered in spite of the mixed results and a special mention must go to Mickey, who has won two of the last three competitions.

Tonight (December 11) will be an auction night, while the coming weeks should see large attendances as we are fishing for both the Wyndham Page trophy and Eddie Frost cup as part of the Christmas festivities.

We hope that once the old faces rediscover the

joy of angling we will see more anglers on the beach.

Results: November 30 - 1st M Langford 23 lb 6 oz; 2nd G Morgan 18 lb 13 oz; 3rd R Bond 17 lb 08 oz; 4th P Coles 14 lb 15 oz; 5th K Salah 14 lb 01 oz; 6th K Gardner 7 lb 05 oz.

December 2 - 1st T Williams 1 lb 9 oz; 2nd P Coles 1 lb 3 oz; **December 7** - 1st M Langford 3 lb 8 oz; 2nd P Coles 0 lb 2 oz.

JC

Llantwit Major under-15s break their Sully hoodoo!

AFTER a shaky start to the season under new management, which resulted in a mixed bag of results to say the least, the Llantwit Major under-15s A squad have over time started to produce the football of previous seasons and gel and perform to the levels that are expected of the reigning cup holders.

The first fixture all the boys look for are the games against Sully and on November 29 we all took the short trip there. After dominating the first half Llantwit's pressure yielded no rewards and we went into the break 0-0.

The only advice given to the boys was to just keep doing what they were doing and within 10 minutes of the second half, against the run of play, Sully took the lead through a well taken free-kick that keeper Joe Baker could do nothing about.

Within five minutes Llantwit were level when Ben Boyd went on a blistering run to leave the Sully defence in his wake, and calmly slotted past the keeper.

Then Lloyd Richards received the ball outside the box after a

clearance from Llantwit's umpteenth corner of the game, calmly looked up and placed the ball in the top corner to the delight of the travelling supporters and players.

The last 20 minutes felt like a hour and with Sully pushing for an equaliser the game had chances at both ends with Llantwit guilty of missing a few and Joe Baker, determined to not be beaten twice, pulled off some jaw-dropping saves that had Sully parents rubbing their eyes. It was pure joy when the referee brought the game to a close as Llantwit had beaten Sully for the first time in seven years of trying - the jinx was no more!

Seven days we faced Cadroxton Dragons, the team that lost only one game in the whole of last season - which was to Llantwit Major in the cup final.

With only one substitute and playing down the slope in the first half with the sun on their backs, the lads started on the front foot and quickly took command of the match with some sublime interchanging in the middle of the pitch by Lewis Brown.

It didn't take long to get the opener when, after some beautiful one touch football, Ben Boyd popped up unmarked to slot home

the first which was followed quickly by the second from the boots of Liam Butcher, playing in an unfamiliar striker role.

Not content with just one, Liam produced his magic again for his second and the third of the game, and by now the players started to believe that this was the match to prove to themselves that they can beat anyone playing football the right way.

Ben Boyd doubled his tally to make it 4-0 and no halftime teamtalk was required with all 11 players knowing only half the job was done.

The defence of Ryan Molton, James Cook, Declan Ellis and Lloyd Richards cut out any chance of losing their clean sheet and it was more of the same with Moses Gee and Angus Mitchell, who never stop running, causing chaos for their midfield.

Lewis Brown finished off a move that would not be out of place in any Academy game to make the final score Llantwit Major 5, Cadroxton Dragons 0. Man of the match went to Cole Baker with a faultless performance.

The team's next match is away to Pencoedre Panthers.

DB

COMPETITION AT SCHOOLS' BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

THE Vale Council's 5x60 team hosted a basketball tournament across two days last week for pupils from schools across the Vale.

A total of 18 teams, consisting of over 150 school pupils turned up for the three competitions, years 7 and 8 boys, years 7 and 8 girls, and year-9 and 10 boys.

Teams from Barry, Stanwell, Llantwit Major, Bryn Hafren, St Richard Gwyn, Bro Morgannwg, St Cyres and Cowbridge schools all competed for a place in the regional rounds to be hosted by Rhondda Cynon Taff.

St Richard Gwyn

reached the final round of all three competitions, winning the years 9 and 10 boys' competition against Barry Comprehensive on December 2 at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.

It was Cowbridge who emerged victorious at Cogan Leisure Centre two days later, winning both the girls' competition and the years 7 and 8 boys' competition.

The 5x60 scheme aims to get secondary school pupils more active more often by encouraging them to exercise for at least 60 minutes, five days a week. The Welsh Government funded initiative is run by Sport Wales and is supported locally by the Vale Council's Sports and Play Development Team.

Bridge results

RESULTS at the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club were as follows:

November 24 - 1st Kevin Maddox & Mike Best 63.07%, 2nd Graham Jones & Irene Thomas 61.93%, 3rd John Henson & Geoff Tinkler 61.65%.

December 1 (Celtic Sims) - 1st Tony Ratcliff & Mark Roderick 74.60%, 2nd Dave Barwood & Jane Brook 61.46%, 3rd Alan Lewis & Terry Evans 55.56%.

December 8 - 1st Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 64.06%, 2nd Sara Bartlett & Helen Barrie 60.80%, 3rd Jane Brook & John Henson 56.82%. LE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

NEW STAMP DUTY SET TO CHANGE THE LOCAL PROPERTY MARKET, SAY EWEMOVE!

WITH the surprise change to the stamp duty system, there is likely to be a fresh boost to the housing market and change the way properties have been traditionally priced.

Buyers and sellers alike will benefit by understanding the change of fortune this brings, advise the rapidly growing sales and letting agent, EweMove.com.

With this in mind, Richard and Karen from EweMove were quick to let their sellers know of the changes to the system and explain the key elements to help buyers and sellers get grips with the changes.

What is stamp duty? STAMP duty land tax, to give its full name, is a tax you pay when you buy a home. It doesn't matter if it is somewhere you hope to live or a buy-to-let property.

All that matters is how much the property costs. The tax is applied according to what you pay.

Under the old 'slab system' the entire cost of a property was taxed according to the highest band it fell into; with sharp increases at each threshold.

The new system is structured in the same way as income tax, which will mean there are no big leaps in duty and house sales will no longer cluster just under each of the thresholds.

The old 'slab' system (based on entire cost): 0 per cent payable on properties up to £125,000, now no SDLT payable at all on properties up to £125,000.

Old - 1 per cent on properties from £125,001 to £250,000; new - the first £125,000 to be free of SDLT, then payable at 2 per cent on the portion up to £250,000.

Old - 3 per cent on properties between £250,001 and £500,000; new - as above, then payable at 5 per cent on the portion up to £925,000.

Old - 4 per cent on properties between £500,001 and £1m; new - as above, then at 10 per cent on the portion up to £1.5m.

Old - 5 per cent on properties between £1m and £2m; new - as above, then payable at 12 per cent on the portion over that amount. 7 per cent payable on properties above £2m.

Example: A house sale of £125,950 would have attracted £1,259 SDLT under the old rates.

Under the new? - Just £19.

Is this good news for everyone?

RICHARD and Karen from EweMove believe the majority will be better off, as long as price increases don't outweigh the tax benefits.

The bands aren't being renewed again until 2020 and with rising house prices this means that many

homes will fall into higher tax bands before then anyway, which would mean higher tax bills under the old system.

The Treasury says that everyone buying a house costing less than £937,000 will benefit! Or about 98 per cent of Welsh households as the average cost of a house in Wales is £171,000.

In the Vale, this will mean the range of property prices coming to market will likely 'smooth out' with no 'clumping' effect at the margins of the stamp duty thresholds.

All in all this will prove a positive move for the market and one which first-time buyers, 'second-steppers', buy-to-let investors and, indeed, all property buyers and sellers can benefit from and particularly with a helping-hand from EweMove, Vale of Glamorgan. Directors Richard Cook and Karen Treweek said:

"We are very aware that even with the added boost of a fairer stamp duty system, moving home can still be a stressful time; which is why we go out of our way to provide an unparalleled VIP service, offering help and support every step of the way from providing amazing photographs, 3D floor plans and carefully crafted marketing descriptions to accompanied viewings and advice and support to the end of the sale completion.

"With 95 per cent of buyers now viewing online, properties are listed

on all of the major property portals generating 183 million buyer searches each month.

EweMove's 'Mammoth Marketing' approach means that sellers' homes get more interest more quickly. And EweMove operate a 24/7 service, making sure that a viewing enquiry or purchase offer is never lost.

"The award-winning Ewe-reka system is the world's first only automated computer system and enables prospective buyers to book their own viewing appointments online in viewing slots that have been pre-arranged with the seller.

"It even emails and texts confirmation of viewing appointments so that all the details are handily stored and sends reminders as well.

"This really is an unparalleled level of customer service not offered anywhere else.

"With such a range of tools at their disposal, and with the added advantage of an equitable stamp duty at last in place EweMove look well-placed to provide a Premium One-stop Property Market service to the people of Barry and the Vale in 2015 and beyond."

For further information contact Richard or Karen on 01446 349349 or e mail Rich@EweMove.com. You can also visit us at www.ewemove.com/barry.



Karen
Branch Director
EweMove
Vale of Glamorgan



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PORTHCAWL RUGBY NEWS ROUND-UP

Youth hit all the right notes in win

P O R T H C A W L
Youth restarted
their league
campaign by
travelling to league
leaders Brynecethin.

From the kick off Porthcawl set their stall early and from a well practiced line-out, Chris Long was driven over to score a try, converted by Jim Needs.

Using the slope well the away side continued to pressurise the home teams defence. However a mistake by Brynecethin allowed Jac Robbins to hack ahead and outpace the cover to score an unconverted try wide out.

A further try by no.2 Jake Furness added to the Porthcawl total to see them win the first half 17 - 0.

The second half was again dictated by the slope, with Brynecethin kicking for position and Porthcawl running the ball out of defence.

Brynecethin worked hard to reduce the deficit and several drives on the away try line stretched the away defence to the full.

Having weathered the initial storm Porthcawl began to control the game more effectively, playing at a higher standard than they have at any time this season so far.

Once again, Long, Robbins and Furness were try scorers and with two of these tries being converted Porthcawl picked up all the points in a close game.

Congratulations to Chris Long and Jake Furness who have both played for the Crawshays Welsh youth XV, during the international fixtures. Porthcawl carry on their league programme this Saturday with Tondud youth the opposition at the South Road Ground, kick off 2.30pm.

CW

UNDER 9S -
LLANTWIT FARDRE
(TEAM 1) 5, **PRFC 5**
LLANTWIT FARDRE
(TEAM 2) 3
PRFC 0

On a bright crisp cold morning all was still, apart from the clatter of Porthcawl mini section gliding up the M4 to face Llantwit Fardre.

Never having played Llantwit Fardre before at tag, this game would be about discipline and a healthy optimism.

Playing two games against our hosts' teams 1 and 2 would be a test in itself over 40 minutes with just the required 10 on display.

We contested very well over both games with our defensive line holding with some superb cover tackling from Max Williams. Dylan Bell, Matthew Davidson and Evan Carless making excellent yardage from the breakdowns.

Will Thomas-Parker at scrum half controlled the pace with impeccable timing especially in game two where their attack was fiercest. Luis Mullins and Sam Buckley produced some blistering runs without reward which, on another day, would have yielded three or four tries apiece.

Jack Childs really stepped up to the mark, reinforcing his continued desire to run, tackle and always be in support - top performance Jack!

Then we come to Brandon and Tyler Howells, whose joint debut at 10-a-side was without fear. The commitment from both was refreshing and skill levels were right up there with the rest of the team. Very impressive boys, keep up the good work.

We competed all across the park, we coped with mis-matches of size and ability and never gave up. We carried the ball forward very well and protected it in the tackle areas, distributed wisely and made good ground all morning.

Captain's comment: "A good day for our team, there was lots to be happy about. My stand-out player for some real crunching cover tackles was Max Williams - he was everywhere!"

Try scorers: Dylan Bell (2), Will Thomas-Parker, Matthew Davidson, Max Williams. JP

UNDER-8S -
P O R T H C A W L
27
LLANTWIT FARDRE
25

What a difference a week makes as all 12 players picked themselves up from the previous week's poor performance and performed superbly, but more importantly they played with a smile on their face.

The players were so impressive, the defence was significantly better, the line speed put Llantwit on back foot and our last ditch defending was immense.

We tagged out the other team on a number of occasions winning the ball back to show our running skills. It's hard to pick a top tagger as whole team were great, but I have to mention Lewis (11), Oscar (14), Samuel (15) and topping the count were Lex and Brody with 17 each, all of whom put in an immense performance, all breaking the 10 a game target.

All were deserving of a trophy for outstanding performances but the top tagger award went to Samuel, not just for the high tag count but for his effort to track back and save a certain try.

One moment that stands out is when Llantwit had sidestepped Samuel, and Dewi and Dexter collided, leaving their player to the run



Porthcawl youth were the big winners at the weekend.
PICTURES BY
TRACEY WILLIAMS.



length of field; Samuel pinned his ears back and caught their player five metres from our line - this effort optimised the team performance.

Another player who stood out and achieved clubman award was Ben; we have asked him to focus on getting five tags a game and develop his running and passing game, and in this game, despite the freezing cold, he got five tags for the second week running and charged up in defence and attack, showing some great skill.

Another newcomer picked up top try scorer for a length of the field run scoring a great try against very good opponents - well done Taylor.

At times we had dummy runners on moves and multiple players in support in space ready to receive the scoring pass screaming for the ball. Dewi and Lewis both scored some superb tries dancing in and out of players, showing power and pace. Although he did not score, Brody tagged his heart out, passed and created great tries.

The award for the clubman making a difference award went to Matthew, who not only tagged well but used his great vocal chords to tune up the defence and keep a line and scored three great tries, finishing off the day in great spirit.

Try scorers: Dewi (6), Dexter, Samuel (4), Piers (2), Dylan, Oscar, Lewis (6), Lex (2), Matthew (3), Taylor.

RH

UNDER-7S
Thanks all for coming to Llantwit Fardre. It was nice to see the boys enjoy plenty of game time.

Matches were played against Llantwit Fardre, CRICC and Pontypridd, and the results were Porthcawl 3, Llantwit Fardre 7; Porthcawl 6, Pontypridd 5; Porthcawl 6, Llantwit Fardre 8, and Porthcawl 4 CRICC 4.

Player's awards went to Rudy Totman and Sean Scatterd - both thoroughly deserved.

GE

No rust as Llantwit Major RFC ease to league victory

LLANTWIT MAJOR
RFC welcomed
Old
Illydians to the Rec for a
league encounter that
was the first game for a
month.

Unfortunately, action only lasted five minutes for Rhys Balmont, who suffered a neck injury that required assessment to ensure it was nothing sinister and it is pleasing to report that once he was checked over by the paramedics he did not need a trip to hospital.

The game was a great spectacle for grass roots rugby with both sides intent on keeping the ball alive and it was Old Illys who got on the scoresheet first with a penalty. With the home side under pressure, Matt Roberts broke through a two man tackle and set off upfield only for the move

to come to an end.

After creaking at the first couple of scrums the Llantwit 8 came into its own and walked Old Illys back 20 metres and under the pressure the Illys gave away a penalty which Chris Fowler duly slotted to level the scores.

From the kick off play continued before the visitors found themselves in acres of space with numbers out on the flank, and through simple hands they crossed for a try that was converted to lead at halftime, 10-3.

The second half started in the same vein with hard tackles the order of the day. Further pressure at scrum time allowed Llantwit to gain another penalty to close the gap to four points.

From the kick off Llantwit didn't secure the ball and following a couple of phases a

moment of indiscipline gave the visitors the opportunity to restore their lead.

However, the kicked was pushed wide and the full back hit the ground as if picked off by a sniper but it was a more general problem of cramp.

The game continued at a frantic pace and following a number of phases the ball was spread across the line for captain Marcus Pearce to cross wide out. The try was goaled by Ryan Evans. It was from this point onwards that Llantwit Major did not look back and took a firm grip in the game, and it wasn't long before they were given another penalty to lead 16-10.

The team continued to play to their game plan and looked at what was in front of them and with the clock ticking down Rob Grapes and Ryan Evans

kick intelligently to pin the visitors back. From one kick ahead there was a mix up in defence that allowed Wasai Vackacegu to run off to find the supporting Lee Wood who cross for the try that was converted by Ryan Evans.

With the final play of the match Llantwit secured the ball and with a patient build up Wasai Vackacegu crossed for the last scoring action of the day, the final score 28-10.

The performance and the result were pleasing for the whole of the coaching team. The team now has another break before they are due to take the field against Cowbridge on Saturday, December 27, when a supporters bus will be arranged, details of which will be advertised in due course.

NE

Canton just edge Cowbridge in a tight league encounter

AFTER a long
enforced layoff
following the
autumn
internationals,
Cowbridge RFC
returned to action
away to Canton
RFC, a side one
place above them
in the league.

It was quite a tight game with Canton attacking through their strong running pack and centres but they were matched by Cowbridge's solid defence.

Canton's early pressure did gain them a penalty after seven minutes, before Cowbridge shook off their cobwebs and started using some possession with good breaks by Tom Harrison and Evan Williams lifting their confidence.

Unfortunately for Cowbridge the game's only try came from a long Cowbridge clearance kick, which was knocked on by the Canton fullback but not

given by the young referee.

The home side's subsequent counter attack was initially stopped but they broke away from the ensuing ruck and despite a scrambling Cowbridge defence, worked their No8 free to crash over, with the conversion hitting the post.

Cowbridge continued to push but were guilty of kicking away too much possession when attacking rather than going through the phases. Their pressure did bring a score when Tom Johnson slotted his second attempt at goal making it 8-3 at the break, which overall was a fair reflection of the first half.

Cowbridge continued to press in the second half but were not clinical enough when it mattered and failed to convert good periods of pressure into points, letting Canton off the hook too many times.

A long range penalty attempt on 65 minutes fell short for Johnson,

and with Canton continuing to defend and counter attack well they started to exert some pressure themselves in the last quarter.

Despite some solid defensive work, epitomised by the excellent Connor Boys, Cowbridge conceded a couple of penalties, with Canton extending the lead to 11-3 on 73

minutes denying Cowbridge a losing bonus point.

A disappointing result, but the number of chances the boys created was encouraging and a little more composure and patience will surely see the results start to go their way.

Meanwhile the youth were involved in a thrilling cup tie at the

Athletic Field. Despite missing players and being up against a much bigger team the boys put on a great display, winning 21-11.

Tries from Dan Evans, Jack Summerhaze and Connor Wyatt and two penalties from Josh Thomas secured a fine victory - well done boys.

GT/RV/RK

'LOCAL HERO' PRAISED

I WAS delighted to see a
local hero, Mr Roy
Williams, on television
news this week.

Mr Williams was being presented with the special Russian medal for sailing on the convoys to Russia during the Second World War.

It has taken a very long time for these medals to be awarded. I had hoped to see Mr Williams wearing this medal at our recent Remembrance Service but it was not presented in time, but we look forward to seeing him wearing it at next year's.

We are all very proud of you Mr Williams.

On a less pleasant note, we are all still suffering from the lack of a post office in Cowbridge. I am one of the

unfortunate people who does not drive, so twice in the last fortnight, I have had to travel to Bridgend to post parcels.

I know how fed up we all are, I can assure you that the town council has been constantly in touch with the headquarters in London to no avail. I know that our Assembly members and our MP have also been working hard.

We have been told that when a site has been located, there will be a six-week consultation period. If this is to be the case it will be near to Easter before we might have a service!

We have requested a temporary mobile office but this has been turned down, despite being available at The Royal Welsh Show for a week!

Best wishes to all for Christmas.
Gwen Baty, Cowbridge.

Local men nominated for sports awards



Sam Moore.

IN recognition of the way they are excelling in coaching disability sport, Porthcawl's Sam Moore and Paul Jenkins, from Bettws, are among the nominees for next week's Wales Sport Awards.

They've both been selected as contenders for the 'Coach to Disabled People of the Year' award, which honours the contribution of coaches who work with disabled people to get them starting, staying and succeeding in sport through high quality coaching.

Paul Jenkins (58) was nominated for his coaching contribution in wheelchair rugby. He started playing the game in 1990 and forged a successful sporting career, competing in the 1996 Paralympic games before retiring in 2000.

Since then, Paul has enjoyed a coaching career with the South Wales Pirates wheelchair rugby club, and coached the GB wheelchair rugby team to win gold at the 2014 Invictus Games, founded by Prince Harry for wounded and injured

service men and women.

Paul said: "It's easy to motivate someone who is interested in sport. If they aren't then I'll make sure the session is less physical and aggressive to encourage them, so they'll think, 'I can do that!'"

Thirty-year-old Sam Moore, a Bridgend County Borough Council employee, started his career as an Active Young People's officer, and is now a swimming instructor at Heronsbridge School.

Speaking about his students, he said: "For those who have potential, it's something they can excel at. Some may not be able to engage with literacy or numeracy very well but if they're good at swimming it's something they can be part of."

If you would like to find out more about local disability sport opportunities, please contact Bridgend County Borough Council's Active Young People's Department on 01656 815222 or email aypd@bridgend.gov.uk. You can read about all of the Wales Sport Awards contenders online at www.walesportawards.co.uk.

Bridgend Bridge Club results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, December 3 (Celtic Simultaneous Pairs): First, Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage; Second, Emer Disley and Norma Newman; Third, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones. Winners on handicap - Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage.

Friday, December 5 (first round of the Club Mixed Pairs): First, Dave and Debbie Lea; Second, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; Third, Bill Turner and Linda Pinnock. Winners on handicap - Dave and Debbie Lea.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltun Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start at 7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes

early. On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Noltun Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced bridge players where assistance is readily available.

The best placed improvers for December 4 were Colin Lewis, Stuart Davies, Dee Finch, Frances Heslin, V Irene Thomas, Sally Bryant and Mike Williams.

There are lessons on Thursdays at 11am, also at Noltun Church Hall, these are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve either or both their bidding and card play. It is still possible to book a place on the course - for further information contact John Evans on 01656 880372.

DN

Heroic defence denies the Sports under-15s

AFTER last week's hard fought draw, it was only right for Bridgend Sports under-15s to face Porthcawl again to try and find a winner out of the two teams.

Like last week, there was little to separate the two sides but Porthcawl edged this match by the slender margin of two points. Also, the Sports had their biggest turnout of the season so far with a squad of 25.

The Sports made a bright start to the match and almost opened the scoring through centre Jamie Richards who made a good break to only be denied by the Porthcawl defence.

Consequently, the Sports were then made to rue this missed opportunity as the ball broke loose to Porthcawl which enabled one of their players to kick the ball dangerously towards the Sports' try line where the Porthcawl player was first to it and scored to put the home side in front.

In what turned out to be the difference between the teams, Porthcawl then successfully converted their try to gain a seven point lead.

On the stroke of halftime, the Sports cranked up the pressure deep inside the Porthcawl half and came close to scoring on several occasions but the Porthcawl defence remained resilient

and protected their seven point lead to go into halftime on top.

To say the least, the second half was one way traffic and the Sports must be left wondering how they did not win this match.

Porthcawl demonstrated some tenacious defending for some large periods of the game but eventually the Sports wore down the home side's defence and scored a well-deserved try.

Flanker Rhys Kelly spotted a gap in the Porthcawl defence and made a clever pick up from a ruck to score in the left hand corner of the pitch. The conversion was always going to be difficult from this angle and it was made twice as hard due to the wind, but nonetheless Drew Price had a good attempt that unfortunately fell wide.

With the Sports now trailing by only two points it looked like the momentum was going to carry them over the line but the Porthcawl defence should be credited for protecting such a small lead to win the game, 7-5.

Overall, the Sports came very close to claiming their first win over Porthcawl and they played some good rugby in doing so.

However to win the match they needed to be more clinical in attack especially when playing against a team with a solid defence.

TP

Under-9s' two games

BRIDGEND Sports under-9s travelled to Mountain Ash in a change from the scheduled fixture last Sunday.

The fixture change resulted in the Sports players facing two Valleys sides that provided a stern test for the young players on a cold winter morning in the Cynon Valley.

With Ash having lost only three times this season the Sports' young players needed to concentrate and fully focus if they were to obtain any kind of result from the game.

Mountain Ash started the game and attacked through the centre of the field, initially making good ground but the blue and whites regrouped and cut off the threat by forcing the attacking player into touch.

With the cold playing its part, some unforced errors from both teams kept the scores level until Jodie Keane passed the ball to Dylan Morgan from a scrum for him to outstrip the cover defence for the Sports to claim the first score of the game, halfway through the first half.

Excellent tackling from Callum Lewis, Dylan Morgan, Tyron Davies, Dewi Worrall and Cian John kept Mountain Ash pinned in their own half for long periods.

Having secured the ball the Sports then mounted several attacks with Iestyn John, Cian John, Dylan Morgan, Callum Lewis and Dewi Worrall all involved with good running, handling and support skills.

The pressure eventually told when Alex Stimpson took the direct route; he offloaded to Tyron Davies who found a path through the defence for the Bridgend side to take a two try advantage into halftime.

The Sports continued

with their efforts in defence which frustrated the opposition and it wasn't long before they scored their third try of the game after forcing Mountain Ash to concede possession.

Ben King took the ball 10 metres into the opposition half, set off on a strong run fending off several players, then stepped off his right foot to score the try.

The enthusiastic away crowd were appreciative of the players' efforts with Dewi Worrall, Tyron Davies and Dylan Morgan prominent in attack. Mountain Ash conceded a penalty, Ieuan Pilliner tapped and fed Alex Stimpson who ran straight then passed to Ben King for him to claim his second try for the Sports to take an unassailable 4-0 lead.

Mountain Ash were determined to register a score and were justly awarded with a late consolation try to make the final score 1-4 to Bridgend Sports.

Inevitably with a late fixture change, sides end up playing two games on a Sunday and Treharris were the Bridgend Sports next hefty opponents.

In a very close fought first half, Treharris often tried route one but failed to make ground as the Sports held firm through solid tackling by Dylan Morgan and Tyron

Davies. Counter attacks and good handling from Dewi Worrall, Jodie Keane, Ben King, Mason Balmer, Thomas Coles and Dylan Morgan failed to break the Treharris defence. Tyron Davies finally broke through to score and enable the Sports to take a slender lead into the final half of the morning.

Treharris scored first in the second half, again from some direct running from Shae Mogford. Dewi Worrall hit back immediately for the away team to secure a 2-1 advantage with five minutes left on the clock.

The Bridgend team made several attacks and had several try scoring opportunities through Dewi Worrall and Dylan Morgan, but the opportunities were lost as both were penalised for illegal use of the hand off.

Playing back to back games, the blue and whites were unable to sustain their efforts against a Treharris side that possessed some solid determined runners.

The Sports dug in deep but tiredness, injuries and the weather took its toll, and they couldn't quite hang on to the final pass on several occasions.

SP

Kenfig youth are defeated

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

A sweetly struck conversion by Griffiths brought the game to within a point, but it wasn't to be the Mules' day, as Waunarlwydd flanker Lewis scored a good team try, McDermott adding the extras.

Kenfig Hill can take many positives from their second half performance; if only they had played as well from the start. A few players deserve a mention; backs Briggs and Buission for playing in the forwards, and doing really well and forwards Joyce and Courtney for literally putting their bodies on the line - let's hope for speedy recoveries to both. Man of the match was awarded to Connor Tantom.

PENCOED RUGBY NEWS ROUND-UP

PENCOED Seconds were understandably a little rusty in the opening moments of their game with Dinas Powys, not having played for some considerable time.

Rhys Bargery was prominent for Pencoed in the early exchanges in the tackle area, before Aaron Songhurst made the first clean break of the match to put Pencoed on the offensive.

Pencoed opened the scoring when returning prop forward James Tredray broke, and good support play from Dano Howells saw the lock feed back row forward Rhys Pope who applied the finish.

Pencoed soon increased their lead when Connor Jones stole a home lineout and Pope burst into the 22, before ruck ball gave Jamie Pensom the opportunity to put in a manufactured crossfield kick for Pope, who plucked the ball out of the air to cross for a well executed try.

Pencoed got their third try when moving the ball wide; Pope found himself in the outside centre position to dummy his way over for a first half hat trick, Rhys Vowles adding the conversion and Pencoed led 0-17 at the interval.

Pencoed started the second half the way in which they had ended the first with a try, burly centre Vowles spinning out of successive tackles to cross wide out.

A swift Pencoed counter attack saw Adam Williams catch the home defence flat with a well controlled kick and chase to score under the posts, and convert for a 0-29 lead.

Going into the final minutes with Pencoed well on top despite several home pack forays, good combined play saw Bargery crash over wide out, Williams adding the extras for a comprehensive 0-36 victory.

This match was ideal in as much as it gave Pencoed the opportunity to play the previously injured Bargery, Ashley Halse, Howells and Pope, with the first team squad potential of Tredray apparent.

On Saturday the 2nd XV are at home to Maesteg Celtic in a Mid Glamorgan & District League Division 1 match, with the first XV entertaining Maesteg on the Recreation Ground; both matches kick-off at 2pm.

PENCOED UNDER-16S 13 Porthcawl Under-16s moved through to the semi finals of the Ospreys Cup with this nailbiting win over Porthcawl.

Pencoed were first on the scoresheet, their pack setting the platform, before Carwyn Williams was worked over for the try in the opening minutes. The Seaweeds then enjoyed a period of pressure camped in the home 22, committed defence however keeping them at bay.

A good midfield hit from the slightly built home outside half Cameron Fyvie Davies typified the home effort and play swept to the visitors' 22 for Pencoed to get their second try, scrum half Callum Palmer moving the ball to the blindside, and swift hands found full back Josh Raikes on a deceptive outside arcing run to cross at the corner flag and Pencoed led 10-0.

Porthcawl hit back immediately with a penalty from their No10, and this signalled a second period of sustained pressure from the Seaweeds, and approaching the halftime interval they capitalized on some loose play in the home ranks to score under the posts, the conversion taking the scoresline to 10-10 at halftime.

Pencoed, now enjoying the advantage of the breeze, were gradually getting on top territorially, and crossed the try line twice early in the half, only to lose the ball in the act of scoring, prop forward Dewi Parrish particularly unlucky not to score.

The Pencoed pack were not deterred however under the urgings of outstanding skipper Tommy Reffell, No8 Tom Williams and Parrish

responding to keep the pressure on the visitors with driving play deep into their 22.

This was now becoming a gripping contest with the home support very conscious that their side, despite a 2-1 try count, could exit the competition if the scores remained level.

Going into the final minutes Fyvie Davies put his team into prime position in the 22 at the clubhouse end, with Raikes doing well to make the follow up tackle to keep Porthcawl pinned down near their own line.

Thoughts of last season's narrow defeat to the visitors in similar circumstances surfaced, however on this occasion, with the Porthcawl defence under immense pressure, Pencoed won a vital penalty, Fyvie Davies holding his nerve to slot the all important penalty and put his joyous team mates deservedly into the semi-final.

PENCOED PHOENIX 12 GWERNYFED LADIES 0
This important National Premiership match consigned a battling Gwyned Ladies to the foot of the Premiership League.

Played on a heavy surface the match never hit the heights, but neither side could be faulted for their efforts throughout.

The Phoenix scrum, as often is the case, started in dominant mood, and the home side were on top in terms of possession and territory in the opening quarter.

Phoenix wing Stephanie Edmunds did well to foil a visitors counter attack with a crunching tackle on her opposite number, before repeating her effort in the next Gwyned phase of possession.

The visitors then missed a point blank penalty from in front of the posts before Phoenix returned to the attack and were adjudged held up over the line. The halftime scoresline of 0-0 didn't reflect the home superiority, though continuity was proving difficult.

Lowri Francis broke early in the half to put Phoenix on the offensive before scrum half Sam Trickey capitalised with a kick and chase but unfortunately for the home side a try was ruled out.

Phoenix were not to be denied however, combative back row forward Amy Stevens crashing over to open the scoring. Territorially Phoenix were now well on top but could not turn this into points, and with both teams reduced to 14 players having picked up yellow cards, the final minutes were tense before the opportunist Leanne Burnell sealed matters for Phoenix, the wing threequarter intercepting a pass out wide to race in from 22 metres.

Trickey added the conversion for a hard fought victory to reverse a somewhat disappointing narrow defeat in Breconshire earlier in the season.

Next up for Phoenix is another National Premiership match at Llandaff North on December 21, 2.30pm kick off.

Junior Phoenix made it a double with a 28-5 win over their Gwyned counterparts.

Phoenix scrum half Kayleigh Powell the star of the day, scoring all four tries. Half back partner Megan Whittaker added four conversions with Powell getting the other.

PENCOED YOUTH 30 GLYNNEATH YOUTH 24

This Ospreys League win for Pencoed youth against high flying Glynneath was a step up on their level of performance to date, and things can only get better for this relatively young side at youth level.

Pencoed tries came from Owen Clarke, Jacob David, Rhys Butler and Jacob Lloyd, with Lloyd adding two conversions.

Captain Jack Picton added a drop goal with Morgan Jones kicking a penalty goal. In this team performance the home back row of Hughes, Thomson and Parrish shone.

TR



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Public Notices

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01343/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Remove existing glazed aluminium shop front and replace with traditional wooden shop front with glazing
Location/Lleoliad: 109, Glebe Street, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01355/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: One replacement dwelling, including all external works and access from the highway
Location/Lleoliad: 12, Park Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Conservation Area Consent/ Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01356/CAC
Proposal/Cynnig: 1 No. replacement dwelling, including all external works and access from the highway
Location/Lleoliad: 12, Park Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01335/RES
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two new dwelling with revised vehicular access
Location/Lleoliad: 74, Murch Road, Dinas Powys
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Affecting Little Orchard, Grade II

Application (s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01300/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed demolition of existing buildings and construction of 21 self contained apartments with on site parking and amenity facilities
Location/Lleoliad: Barry Dock Conservative Club, Station Street, Barry

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01358/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of the existing Dolphin bar/restaurant and redevelopment for 25 residential units, commercial uses and associated works
Location/Lleoliad: The Dolphin, Friars Road, Barry

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01358/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of the existing Dolphin bar/restaurant and redevelopment for 25 residential units, commercial uses and associated works
Location/Lleoliad: The Dolphin, Friars Road, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 11 December, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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Birthday Notices

Isla Bailey
It's your 11th Birthday!
Hugs and kisses from Mum, Dad, Callum, James & Tommy Truscars
x x x

Eltemae Williams
Happy 13th Birthday
You are now officially a teenager!
Lots of Love Mum, Charlie, Nannie and Bampa
x x x

Bethan Thomas
16th December
Happy Birthday to our darling daughter Bethan
We couldn't be prouder of the gorgeous, talented and hardworking young lady you have become. Enjoy your day and celebrations.
Love always Mum, Dad, Dan, Cats and Albi x x x x

Family Notices

EDWARDS
Lynda
Tim and Peter Edwards and grandchildren would like to express their heartfelt thanks for everyone who attended Lynda's funeral and for the cards and messages of condolences they received at this sad time.

CATTLE
David Ernest
Suddenly on November 30th - David, well known as "Dave Taff Tools", devoted husband of Jayne, much loved Dad of Helen, Robin and Alison.
David will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him "For Always Having True Grit"
Resting at Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at The Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Saturday, 13th December at 10.30am followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry.
Family flowers only - donations if desired may be made at the service to Mind and The Stroke Association in memory of David. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

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Thank You

Currie
Paula & Gerald would like to thank everyone for the kind wishes, cards & gifts we received on the occasion of our golden wedding anniversary, also for making our party such a memorable evening.
Thank you everyone.

Anniversary

Diamond Wedding Celebrations
Many congratulations to **Brian & Valerie Gilvear** who celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on **11th December 2014**
Brian and Valerie have lived in the Vale for over 50 years. Over the years they have been very involved in many local activities. Valerie was a Cub Scout Leader in Llantwit Major for 25 years earning her Long Service Award and both Brian and Valerie helped Conway Hawkins to run Colwinston Youth Club for over 25 years.
Happy Anniversary Mum and Dad with much love hugs and kisses from your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren
X

Articles For Sale

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Christmas Messages

Due to the recent sad loss of my dear wife Audrey Mary Thomas, I feel unable to cope with the sending of greeting cards.
Instead I intend to donate to the **Alzheimers Research Society** in memory of my dear late wife.
Jim Thomas

Lost & Found

STILL LOST ST DONATS
15 JULY

CARMEN
Small, black, long haired cat with white paws & bib, fluffy tail & chipped. Very friendly. The much loved pet of our son, who died tragically last year. Great sentimental value. If found please ring the Turners on 01446 792515.

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Saints draw in 10 goal thriller

BARRY Saints were held to a 5-5 draw with league rivals Canton Cross Vaults.

The squad, affected by injuries and unavailability, managed to gain a point even though they had the advantage of playing against 10 men for 50 minutes. Canton were the dominant team for the first 30 minutes, striking the post from a deflected effort, and goalkeeper Nicky Elston spreading himself well to deny Canton an opener.

Canton were then reduced to 10 men when the striker, flagged correctly for offside, used abusive language towards the referee and received his marching orders five minutes before half time.

Saints immediately took advantage after a disastrous bit of defending with the keeper and centre back colliding. Darren Townsend was left with a tap in to the empty net.

Halftime was approaching but Barry increased their lead, Nathan Williams finding space in the box to smash home into the bottom corner; 2-0 and the Saints knew it was theirs to lose.

In the second half Canton looked a completely different side. Fired up, the ball fell to the left winger, who had been out of the game up until this point. He raced down the wing, cut in and seemed to trip over the ball under pressure. The referee deemed the pressure a foul and awarded a controversial penalty which Zaki Misbah converted with ease.

Straight away Canton grabbed a

second with a half volley from James Saddler finding a way through the Saints keeper. This woke the Saints up and they grabbed the lead through Michael Evans after he got on the end of a Nathan Williams cross, converting at the far post. Darren Townsend restored the two-goal advantage, tucking home after breaking through leaving the keeper with no chance.

Canton Cross Vaults came straight back and scored from a tight angle through Matt Hibbs. Moments later they scored again; after being given too much space outside the area, Matt Hibbs hit a low accurate shot into the bottom corner.

With the game winding down the game could have gone either way but the Saints dealt what they believed was the final blow.

Nathan Williams picked the ball up out wide, accelerated past his marker and shot from a tight angle, hitting his shot low and hard, beating the keeper at his near post.

With the referee about to blow up Canton had one more attack. The ball was picked up by striker Zaki Misbah who hit a long-range effort which found the bottom corner with the last kick of the game.

A disappointing result considering for 50 minutes Canton had 10 men, but with the game in their hands, Saints were unlucky to only walk away with a point.

GL

Liam caps off great year with award



ON Saturday, December 6, at Cardiff Golf Club, the W.F.K.O kickboxing club held their annual awards evening and Liam Rees (17) from Cadoxton, Barry attended.

There were many awards given out throughout the evening to deserving students, but one student in particular who has shown outstanding talent was Liam. He was awarded his 2nd degree Black Belt. Liam was also presented a shield by Mal Johns, president for W.O.M.A.A Wales, for 'sponsored fighter of 2014'.

Liam has had his most successful year in 2014, winning all fights he has entered in advanced boys and mens 60kg and under. Liam began the year in May by winning his first title belt. This young fighter showed outstanding skills and talent to win the Welsh Kickboxing Union title fight.

In July, Liam took first place in The WOMAA

PENARTH Hockey Club's 2nd XI again provided the high point of the weekend, grinding out a win against Bridgend while the firsts continued to struggle for reward in the latest round of games in the Davis Wood Hockey League.

Without a point in their past two games, the 1st XI were hoping that a home fixture with a strengthened side, against fellow strugglers Cirencester would provide a turnaround.

The game started brightly at a sun-drenched Barry Sports Centre, with Penarth enjoying most of the early possession. Unlike recent weeks, they made the pressure count through a typical Chris Baker run and strike to take the lead, and quickly doubled the advantage thanks to Gareth Hurman's 'composite leg', the first of several 'interesting' calls that failed to serve either team in their efforts.

Despite the double blow, Cirencester struck back to make the score 2-1 midway through the half, but the deficit was only briefly reduced before Baker slotted a penalty corner under the right foot of the otherwise-impressive 17-year old Cirencester goalkeeper.

Penarth failed to hold on to the two-goal gap, however, as another goal for the visitors completed the first half action and kept them in contention for the second period.

Although they held the upper hand heading into the break, the second half proved Penarth's undoing as the period descended into an all-too-familiar scenario of ill-discipline.

With two yellow cards reducing the hosts to nine men, Cirencester seized the initiative and, clearly sensing victory, capitalised in clinical fashion. Four unanswered goals transformed the match in the Gloucestershire side's favour, and condemned Penarth to their third straight defeat.

The result was a particularly tough pill for the Vale side to swallow and, although the middle of the table remains closely-matched, they now find themselves at the wrong end of the pack going into the second half of the season.

BRIDGEND 'B' 1-2 PENARTH 'A'
Penarth's 2nd XI headed into their first December fixture buoyed by possibly their best performance of the season to date and, facing bottom of the table Bridgend, sensed a rare opportunity to string

together consecutive wins.

Despite the relatively late start in Pencoed, conditions remained ideal for hockey, and Penarth started strongly, taking the game to their hosts and looking every inch the better side.

However, even with a strengthened front line, the visitors remained wasteful in front of goal, and it took several chances before an alert Rob Harrison pounced on a rebound to finally break the deadlock.

Perhaps believing a little too much in their dominance, Penarth failed to build on the breakthrough, wasting possession in midfield and gradually allowing Bridgend to exert unwarranted pressure on the defence.

Some keen rearguard action, with goalkeeper Jason Harris called on to make a couple of sharp saves, kept the score at 1-0 for much of the half, but Bridgend were not to be denied and, catching their visitors unprepared at a penalty corner, pulled level just before the interval.

Some stern words at halftime refocused the Penarth side and the second period opened in similar fashion to the first, with the Bears regaining control of the midfield and putting increased pressure on the Bridgend goal.

Once again, however, they found a goalkeeper in inspired form, although that could not disguise the number of chances that were still being wasted.

Penarth eventually retook the lead during a series of penalty corners, when Craig Llewellyn overcame a mis-controlled pass to find a

gap between defenders on the line, but again the visitors could not build on the lead and allowed their hosts to hope for a share of the points.

Penarth's defence was again called upon to resist greater pressure in the final 10 minutes, with Graeme Jones and Nathan Townsend underlining solid games as they helped preserve the slight advantage.

Relieved to come away with the full three points, while acknowledging that

Bridgend probably deserved a share, Penarth confirmed seventh spot in a De Cymru 2 table that is gradually becoming more strung out with two games remaining before the Christmas/New Year break.

League games continue this weekend (Saturday, December 13), with the 1st XI hosting a Cardiff Medics side sharing the same number of points, and the seconds heading back across county borders to take on a Gwent side currently propping up the division after slipping below Bridgend on goal difference at the weekend.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from: club secretary Dave Stevens via: d.stevens81@hotmail.co.uk

CL

SPORTS BEAT THE LEAGUE LEADERS

THANKS to all the supporters and players of Sully Sports RFC for last weekend's fixture when we welcomed Llandrindod Wells.

A great team effort from all players secured a hard-fought win against the league leaders.

Fierce defence and turnovers from the visitors ensured Sports had to work hard to cross the try line, but indeed patience was rewarded with a try from Jake Williams.

The visitors showed why they are top of the league by throwing the ball around but a penalty

try was awarded and duly converted by Jake Williams; however, not to be outdone, the visitors got themselves on the scoreboard with two well-worked tries, setting up an entertaining second half.

Sports took a while to get started after the break, but started to build momentum and patterns seemed to emerge with strong runs from the backs and forwards.

It was a delight to watch from the sidelines and many complimentary words were heard, all encouraging to the coach and players.

John Thomas managed to get on the

end of a good driving maul to secure a well-worked try. The game then flowed between both teams trying to secure the win.

Again Sports showed some vision and skill, picking the ball from their own 22 where Damion Huggins went on a darting run. However, this came to nothing and the Sports held on for a well deserved win, 17-10.

This week sees a cup match at home, followed by league action away to Cathays.

Team: Jody Velda, Ben Such, Adam Wheeler, Sam Bowditch, Jamie Griffith, Peter Brown, Alex Szuchnik, John Thomas, Jon Blake, Curtis Miller, Rhys Manford, Scott Williams, Dai Harris, Jake Williams, Matthew Phillips, Lee Walters, Dave Weston, Damion Huggins.

Anyone looking to start playing or return to playing come along on a Tuesday and Thursday night.

GI

Wolves' bite too much for Cowbridge

ON a brisk winter's morning at Bryn Y Don, Dinas Powys Wolves under-12s entertained their Vale neighbours Cowbridge.

Having grown up through the mini section together, both sets of teams have played countless training matches against each and the spirit shown by the players Saturday was there to see.

Dinas started on the front foot attacking in numbers but failing to use the width and the visitors managed to get bodies behind the ball.

As the half wore on the home side took advantage of some good

interplay around the edge of the box and opened the scoring. The second goal followed shortly before Cowbridge pulled one back just before the break.

After a few words at the break, Dinas came out and were more patient with the ball and played their passing game. Goals came thick and fast and were spread around the team.

A very good performance from the Villagers and credit to Cowbridge who, with a depleted squad, gave everything for their coaches.

Man of the match was awarded to J Moss.

LS

Sully Bridge Club results

SULLY Bridge Club results for the week ending December 6 were:

Monday, December 1: North/South - First, Judy Collins/Shirley Powell 58.14; second,

Joan Thompson/Sheila Kavanagh 57.39; third, Val Hetheridge/Norman Ryley 55.49.

East/West - First, Sean MacDougall/Italo Basiletti 64.96; second, Anne MacDougall/Anne Hilary Jones 59.09; third, Mary Blackwell/Peter Blackwell 53.03.

Wednesday, December 3: North/South - First, Carol James/Alan James 59.65; second, Judy Collins/Jayne Greatrex 58.77; third, Shirley Powell/Helen Davies 58.62.

East/West - First, Tish Beere/Anita Charles 58.46; second, Judith Owen/Helen Jordan 55.13; third, Pat James/Penny Jones 54.62.

EK

Barrivale Bridge Club

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for December 2.

First, Denis Mottram and Kay Dyer 70.42 per cent; **second** Jane Brook and Mark Roderick 63.75 per cent; **3rd** Mick Green and Noelle Bond 57.50 per cent.

Denis Mottram and Kay Dyer also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Dave Reed

Brynhill ladies have Swag!



Hilary West shows her Christmas Swag!

THE Brynhill ladies had a very entertaining evening with Hilary West, as she demonstrated how to make a Christmas Door Swag.

She efficiently filled the base with foliage, cones, baubles and ribbon producing a stunning display. The ladies took more time, with much exchanging of foliage and help with the 'accessories', also making some beautiful swags. Good fun and a decoration to take home, thank you Hilary.

Competition results: October 28 - Carole Allen, 18 points; November 18 - Linda Hewlett, 18 points; December 2 - Liz Brown 20 points.

CH

ST ATHAN GOLF CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL PRESENTATION AND AWARDS EVENING



PRESENTATION night at St Athan Golf Club is always a well attended event with an array of crystal trophies being awarded to the golfers who have been successful in competitions throughout the year.

This year was no exception, the table was laden with crystal alongside the club's silverware.

The prestigious competition boards have been updated with the names of the 2014 winners and now become part of the club's history.

The evening started with the presentation of cheques to charity; the ladies' captain Jenny Young had selected Marie Curie as her preferred charity for the year and was delighted to present its representative, Sarah, with a cheque for £860 to add to the £1,030 donated earlier in the year.

Club captain Roger Davidge handed his £1,220 cheque to Andy Thomas to facilitate the continuity of GLAZE prostate cancer treatment. GLAZE has been significant in funding the centre of excellence for Green Light Laser treatment at the Princess of Wales hospital, an eminent teaching unit which is headed by Andy himself.

Chairman of play, Gary Bohun took over the proceedings for the rest of the evening, with the junior organiser Simon Hampson and ladies' competition member Carolyn McKenzie announcing the winners, and Roger, Jenny and the club president, Paul Lindsay presenting the trophies to the worthy winners.

There are two awards presented each year with the members not knowing the recipients until they are announced; the first is the club person of the year, sponsored by the New York Deli, and the club committee voted Pete Purnell for the tireless and ongoing work he selflessly carries out in and around the clubhouse.

The playing committee has the decision on the Kyle Trophy recipient; this is awarded to the golfer

who fulfils the following criteria: a) achieves a significant handicap reduction b) achieves a great deal of success in all competitions entered c) in the opinion of the committee has been an example to all golfers both on and off the course.

There were several golfers who fell into the above category and after much deliberation, Craig Sherman successfully carried off the title.

For the championship titles, players have to qualify and then endeavour to get through the successive knock-out rounds, culminating in playing on finals day which was held in September.

The junior final, played over 36 holes, saw a tremendous come back from Josh Morgan who was 8 down early in the game, however his fight was not quite enough against Rhodri Miskin who secured the win on the 36th hole.

Liz Thomas graciously accepted defeat to Michelle Bligh in the ladies championship final, a title Liz has held on numerous occasions but a first for Michelle.

There was some hilarity in the clubhouse when BJ Hawkins came forward for the championship runner-up trophy; fellow members are aware that BJ enjoys silence while playing his golf so they applied the same respect when he collected his award!

However it was a standing ovation and thunderous applause that greeted Gerald Thomas as he stepped forward and held aloft the club champion 2014 silver cup.

St Athan Golf Club members are extremely proud of all its competitors and congratulates each and every one of them.

A full list of trophy winners can be found on the club's website, www.rfstathangc.co.uk; the club is also on Facebook where photos can be found.

St Athan Golf Club caters for green fee players but particularly welcomes new playing members. For further information contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

CM



Tight victory for the Barry Seconds team

BARRY 2nd XV returned to action following the autumn internationals, with Rumney their formidable visitors.

After a disappointing result last time out, coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow reshuffled the pack, making 11 changes from the side that lost to Rhiwbina.

The changes had a positive effect, as the home side came out with all guns blazing, surprising their visitors with their physical approach. Despite Rumney's efforts to negate the Barry pack by opting for passive scrums, the power in the Barry eight was evident early on as there was some good carrying in the tight by James Sullivan, Chris Prosser and Jason Evans.

Fly-half Ashley Adams was able to convert good ball into positive possession and territory, while the heavyweight midfield partnership of Tiernan Scott and Ethan Dicks proved more than a handful for the Rumney defence.

Wing Rhys Knapman saw plenty of the ball early on, but was unable to breach the visitors' defence out wide. The danger signs were not heeded by Rumney, however, and following prolonged Barry pressure, Tiernan Scott punched a hole through the visitors' line to score the first try of the match. Adams failed to add the extras.

Barry continued to crank up the pressure and were now dominating the lineup as well as open play. A Rumney infringement in midfield gave Scott an opportunity to extend the home lead with his boot – an opportunity he did not miss via the bounce off the crossbar.

At the interval Barry were 8-0 up, but the coaching staff were wondering if that was enough with the home side facing up the slope for the second half.

Rumney returned from halftime with renewed vigour, but some superb work in the contact area, most notably from Jake Goodfellow, snuffed out any danger. When the visitors tried to spread the ball out wide, it was stopped dead by solid tackling from the Barry midfield, with Scott and Dicks in unrelenting mood.

The visitors did have two chances to reduce the deficit from kickable penalties, but both sailed wide as the game crept into the last quarter.

Game management became key for the home side and as all four substitutes were brought for extra impetus, Barry held out until the last play of the game when Rumney bagged a consolation try under the posts.

The final score was 8-7 and this was just reward for most determined and accurate performances by the 2nd XV this season. The coaches and players should rightly be congratulated.

The 2nd XV will travel to Cardiff Saracens this weekend for a rearranged cup tie.

TEAM: Mephram; Knapman, Scott, Dicks, Poole; Adams, Williams; Morris, Prosser, Sullivan; Dutton, Rolfe; Goodfellow, Jones ©, J Evans.
Replacements: Thomas, Elsworth, Evans, McCann. Man of the match: Scott.

**BARRY 3RD XV 3
SEA VIEW 33**

BARRY 3rd XV continued their league campaign as they hosted

near neighbours Sea View.

With four players once again dropping out of the match day squad within 24 hours, the job for coach Frank Greig became one of increasing difficulty.

There was a debut for Jordan Clarke at full back, while Greig was also forced to select himself on the bench. The disruptive nature of the preparations showed in their decision making and execution. A well-drilled visiting side saw their opportunity to dominate possession and territory.

Against the slope in the first half, Barry found possession difficult to come by, not helped by some curious decision making by the officials and some naive defending in the contact area.

The home side did manage a solitary penalty kick from the trusty boot of Luke Hewitson before the interval.

The second half saw Barry gain large amounts of territory, but a lack of understanding between the players and poor execution of attacking moves saw the advantage slip away.

As the home side tired Sea View sensed the opportunity to increase their lead and took it with both hands, ending up handsome winners in the local derby.

The 3rd XV will return to action on December 20, away at St Peters.

TEAM: Clarke; Rees, Hewitson, van Birgelen, Fogg; Bailey, Evans; Westall, Ring, Hall; N Thomas, Deyes; Templeman, Jones ©, Cleland.

Replacements: D Thomas, Greig; substitute not used: Chow. Man of the match: Clarke.

KC

'OLD GAFFERS' ROWING IN CELTIC LONGBOATS

Eight members of the Old Gaffers Association pictured before their rowing trip around Jackson's Bay.



ON November 16, the Old Gaffers Association held their AGM at Barry Yacht Club.

Before the AGM, a number of the members had the opportunity to try their hand at sea rowing in the club's Celtic longboats.

The short trip around Jackson's Bay was enough for a first experience and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience, with some having thoughts for a return.

The OGA is the National Association for Gaff Rig Sailing, which

has been supporting traditional sailing in the UK and around the world for more than 50 years.

There is an active group in the Cardiff and Glamorgan region, with

regular sailing events throughout the summer, as well as social gatherings at Cardiff Bay Yacht Club and elsewhere.

More information about the Old Gaffers

Association can be found at <http://oga50.org>. Information on sea rowing can be found at www.barryyachtclub.co.uk/html/Rowing.htm.

Jockey Jason makes a sponsorship plea

LIMERICK-born Jason Kiely, a number of promising rides lined-up former conditional jockey, who is for the coming point-to-point season. based at Tim Vaughan's Aberthin He said: "It would be nice if I could yard, is seeking someone from the get a local businessman or woman to Vale to sponsor him, now that he has sponsor me."

Jason, who is 23, and weighs in at 10 stone, can be contacted on winners under rules for Tim, has a 07715621602.

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** Compared to the average braking distance of four leading competitors (braking on high µ very wet surface at 80–20 km/h). Tested by TÜV SÜD Automotive in September 2012 by order of Goodyear Dunlop. Tyre size: 205/55 R16 91V; test car: VW Golf; test locations: Mireval (FR), Papenburg (D) and Garching (D); report no. 76249743

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10 TOYOTA Aygo "Blue" 1.0 VVTi
Electric Blue, 42,000 miles, £20 road tax
£4,995



11 JAGUAR XK 5.0 V8 Convertible
Silver, Black Hood, Black/Cream Leather, 25,000 miles, 1 owner
£34,995



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In Red, 79,000 miles
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£35,995

11 **JAGUAR XK 5.0 V8 Convertible** In silver, black hood, black/cream leather, 25,000 miles, 1 owner
£34,995

08 **LAND ROVER Discovery 3 2.7 Diesel HSE, Automatic, 7-Seater.** Silver with black leather, 58,000 miles, sat-nav, tv, steps, fully colour coded
£19,995

10 **BMW 120 Diesel M-Sport Coupe.** In silver with red leather, 21,000 miles, very desirable
£14,695

62 **VOLVO C30 R-Design D3 2.0 Diesel (150)** In white with black leather, 28,000 miles, 1 owner
£13,995

89 **LOTUS Esprit 2.2** In white with navy leather, 33,000 miles, 25 year old sports car
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12 **CITROEN C3 Picasso 1.6 Diesel VTR+** In silver, with sat/nav, alloys etc
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11 **MERCEDES A160 "Blue Efficiency"** In black, 34,000 miles
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£5,995

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£5,995

57 **MERCEDES C180K Coupe 'Sport Edition' Auto** In blue-black metallic, 80,000 miles
£5,995

10 **RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique.** In electric blue, 49,000 mile family hatch
£5,695

59 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 Extreme 3-Dr** In black, 36,000 miles, low insurance
£5,695

58 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr.** In black, 64,000 miles with parking sensor
£5,495

08 **NISSAN Note 1.4 Acenta.** In electric blue, 39,000 miles, alloys, a/c, c/d
£5,495

08 **SKODA Fabia 3 TDI 1.9 Estate.** In met grey, 71,000 miles
£5,495

08 **VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 Diesel Automatic Exclusive.** In met blue, 61,000 mile 7 seater
£5,495

08 **VW Golf 1.4 'S' 5-Dr** In met blue, 79,000 miles, a/c etc, ideal family hatch at
£5,495

08 **TOYOTA Yaris 1.4 Diesel SR D4D 5-Dr** In met grey, 71,000 miles, £20 road tax
£4,995

10 **SMART Fortwo Pulse MHD 1.0 Convertible** In black, 31,000 miles, £20 road tax
£4,995

09 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In met blue, 75,000 miles, ideal family hatch
£4,995

09 **SUZUKI Splash 1.2 GLS+ 5-Dr.** In met blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance
£4,995

58 **RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.2 Estate** In silver, 60,000 miles with a/c, alloys
£4,995

58 **RENAULT Clio 1.5 Diesel Dynamique 5-Dr** In black, 71,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax
£4,995

08 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique 5-Dr (100)** In black, 50,000 miles, 2 owners
£4,995

08 **KIA Ceed 1.6 LS 5-Dr** In met blue, 47,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc
£4,995

57 **SEAT Altea 1.9 Diesel Reference** In met ruby red, 72,000 miles, 2 owners
£4,995

06 **TOYOTA Corolla Verso Ti80 Diesel** In met-grey, 83,000 miles, 7-seater
£4,995

60 **HYUNDAI i10 Classic 5-Dr.** In silver, only 11,000 miles and £30 road tax
£4,995

60 **SUZUKI Swift 1.3 SZ3 3-Dr** In red, 59,000 miles, 1 owner
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10 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-Dr** In white 71,000 miles with privacy glass, alloys, cd
£4,995

10 **TOYOTA Aygo "Blue" 1.0 VVTi 5-Dr** In electric blue, 42,000 miles, £20 road tax
£4,995

09 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Diesel 'S' 5-Dr** In silver, 63,000 miles, low road tax
£4,995

08 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In met-blue, 61,000 miles with a/c etc
£4,995

57 **HYUNDAI i130 Style 2.0 Diesel 5-Dr** In silver, 72,000 miles, nice example
£4,995

55 **MINI Cooper** In black (chilli pack), 17" alloys, host of extras
£4,995

53 **BMW 330 Diesel Sport Touring Auto** In silver with grey leather, nice example at
£4,995

55 **MINI One 'Seven Edition'.** In met-red, 73,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc
£4,795

09 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Club 5-Dr** In black, 39,000 miles with a/c
£4,695

58 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Diesel 'S' 5-Dr** In met turquoise, 55,000 miles
£4,695

56 **SEAT Toledo 2.0 TDi Stylance Automatic.** In black, 61,000 mile diesel at
£4,695

53 **MERCEDES SLK 200 6-Speed** In silver, 89,000 mile convertible at
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55 **VW Golf 1.6 'S' Automatic 5-Dr** In met-blue, 79,000 miles, a/c etc
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56 **FORD Focus CMAX 2.0 Ghia Auto** In blue, 45,750 miles
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06 **FORD Fiesta Climate TDCi 1.4 5-Dr** In black, 51,762 miles
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55 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Zetec 5-Dr** In red, 42,000 miles, a/c, £30 road tax
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£3,495

07 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style Climate 3-Dr** In met-blue, 79,000 miles
£3,495

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Students return with medals galore!



STUDENTS from the Vale-based JSTKD Martial Arts & Fitness returned from the recent TAGB British Tae Kwon Do Championships with a clutch of medals and trophies.

The Championships were held at the University of Worcester and attracted competitors from throughout the UK and Europe. JSTKD's team comprised Josh Edwards, Sean Edwards, Chris Edwards, Lynne Doel, Rhys Doel, Kath Birmingham, Menna Birmingham, Harri Birmingham, Alan Li, Ashton Curnick and Nathan MacIver.

Between them, they competed in a variety of events in both the sparring and patterns categories. The adults led the way initially with Chris Edwards sustaining a cut to the face as he battled hard to come away with the bronze in the Men's Blue Belt division.

Next up was Lynne Doel in the Ladies Blue

Belt division. Lynne was evenly matched with her opponent but some well placed punches helped her on her way to claim the bronze.

Nathan MacIver, competing in the Men's Green Belt division, was unlucky not to join Chris in a medal position, having fought well in the earlier rounds.

Undeterred, he made up for it as he took the bronze in the Men's Green Belt Tag Team event.

Not to be outdone in the junior Tag Team events were brother and sister Harri and Menna Birmingham, who won silver and bronze respectively as they fought alongside their team mates in the red belt events.

However, the biggest drama of the day came in one of the last individual events that took place. Fighting in the Boys Black Belt division, Alan Li took to the floor in his first match at heavyweight level.

Despite facing some formidable competition, Alan remained focused throughout, pulling off a spectacular spinning

hook kick that saw his opponent being knocked out as he made impact.

This caused the match to be halted temporarily as the medics were called and resulted in the unfortunate competitor being taken out of the arena in a wheelchair, to allow him time to recover away from the glare of the spectators.

Despite this, Alan maintained his concentration and poise as he entered the final. He again produced some inspired moves against a more experienced fighter but eventually was narrowly beaten into the silver position.

After collecting his trophy Alan continued in fine form as he went on to win silver as part of the 'Welsh Dragons' Tag Team.

JSTKD has classes for all abilities starting from three years up to adults. Beginners of all ages are very welcome and several classes are suitable for parents and children to train alongside each other. Full details can be found at www.jstkd.co.uk.

The picture above shows members of the team; back row - Kath Birmingham, Alan Li, Ashton Curnick, Chris Edwards. Front row - Menna Birmingham, Josh Edwards, Harri Birmingham, Sean Edwards. Not pictured - Lynne Doel, Rhys Doel and Nathan MacIver.

VW

Dinas Powys FC are beaten by local rivals

DESPITE Barry Town United being top of the Division 2 table, it was Dinas Powys who took the game to Barry and had them camped in their own half for much of the first 20 minutes.

A cross from Luke Swaffield in the first couple of minutes was gathered by Barry's keeper Dan Bradley and this was followed in the sixth minute by Keiron James dispossessing a defender and laying the ball off to King Junior Mwedzo, whose shot

from an acute angle hit the side netting.

Barry had a half-chance when, from a throw in, striker Anthony Nagi got a shot away which Dinas keeper Alex Hales gathered but it was Dinas at this stage keeping the ball better and they forced three corners on the trot before Barry finally cleared the danger to break away down the right wing with Theo Richards, Rhys James and Jamie Bradford all involved, but in the end Hales managed to grab the ball.

A further chance came Barry's way,

Bradford playing Nagi in but his effort was well wide of the left upright. However, despite the early dominance by Dinas it was Barry who opened the scoring when Hales came to gather a free kick by Paul McClean and didn't get anywhere near it, leaving Ryan Evans to head into an empty net for the opener on 20 minutes.

Dinas kept plugging away and a good cross from Ben Ah-Mun found Carlos Indjai in a 'one on one' situation with Bradley who rushed off his line to smother the danger as Indjai was about to lob him. Keiron James (who was having a fine game) then got a shot away which hit a defender and went out for another Dinas corner, which Barry eventually managed to clear after some determined pressure by the home side.

The hosts were then awarded a free kick from 30 yards which Nicky Bruce took hard and low, the ball going straight through to Bradley to collect. Hales was then called into action after a clearance by James Marr was intercepted by Nagi to bring a good save from the Dinas keeper.

Ben Ah-Mun was then put through one on one with Bradley but again the experienced Barry keeper just got to the ball first. Mwedzo was then fouled close to the right touch line, Bruce putting the free kick onto the head of Atif Bashir but his effort was off target

and right on halftime Dinas were made to pay for not taking any of their chances when Rhys James played Nagi in. His first shot cannoned back to him off the left post but he made no mistake the second time to give Barry a somewhat flattering 2-0 lead at the interval.

The visitors forced a couple of early corners which the Dinas defence dealt with and, with just four minutes of the second period gone, Dinas pulled a goal back. Ben Ah-Mun was played in on wide on the left, he beat his marker and fired in a low curling shot which hit the inside of the far post and went in to give the home side a lifeline.

Barry were beginning to look dangerous again and Nagi put in an excellent cross which was over Hales' head but Nicky Bruce swept the ball out for a corner as the Barry front men closed in. The game was end to end at this stage and Indjai whipped in a cross which Ben Ah-Mun got his head to but it was just wide of the post.

From a Barry corner the ball came out to Evans but, despite hitting a powerful effort, it was just over the bar.

A sweeping move from Dinas involving Luke Swaffield, Sam Johnson and Indjai produced a corner which was unproductive and a speculative shot from 30 yards by Ah-Mun was off target, although

Dinas were still matching their high-flying opponents, the only difference being Barry were more clinical in front of goal. A cross by Johnson ended with a looping header by Indjai which Bradley took at full stretch under his cross-bar.

Then disaster struck for Dinas with just five minutes remaining when Swaffield was adjudged, somewhat harshly the Dinas contingent felt, to have brought a Barry player down in the box, the referee pointing to the spot. Rhys James took the penalty and tucked it just inside the post despite Hales guessing the right way to make it 3-1.

Dinas then brought on three substitutes with Mamadu Banguraso, Rhodri Foote and James Alloway replacing Ah-Mun, Swaffield and Mwedzo, but time ran out and, despite the scoreline, manager Lee Saunders was proud of his young side who put in a gutsy performance.

Squad: 1 Alex Hales, 2 Luke Swaffield, 3 Nicky Bruce, 4 James Marr, 5 Steve Provis (c), 6 Atif Bashir, 7 Keiron James, 8 Sam Johnson, 9 King Junior Mwedzo, 10 Ben Ah-Mun, 11, Carlos Indjai, 12 Mamadu Banguraso, 14 Rhodri Foote, 15 James Alloway.

On Saturday, December 13 Dinas travel to take on Llanern with a 2pm kick off.

PK

SHANE WINS BEACH RACE



SHANE JONES has only just turned six, but has had the bug for motor bikes from the age of three.

He lives in Barry and goes to St Andrews Church in Wales School, Dinas Powys.

On October 19, the Weston-super-Mare beach race was open to the six to 10 year olds. He won it. This was the first time for him to do a beach race and only his seventh race ever.

Shane intends to continue his passion for motor bike racing and will be entering the British and Welsh Championships in 2015. He will be back at Weston-super-Mare next year to defend his title.

Welsh-American boxing rivalry chronicled in book

WELSH boxing greats gathered in Cardiff recently for a special evening to celebrate the proud 120-year boxing heritage between Wales and America, and to launch a new book that chronicles over 60 epic encounters since 1884.

Ring royalty in the form of Enzo Maccarinelli, Colin Jones, Nicky Piper, Gary Lockett, Gavin Rees, Robbie Regan, and Eddie Avoth recalled the big fight nights against star-studded American opposition to a packed audience at the Welsh Institute of Sport to mark the publication of 'Dragons vs Eagles - Wales vs America in the Boxing Ring' by renowned boxing journalist Gareth Jones.

From the glitz of Las Vegas, to the iconic Yankee Stadium in New York, Welsh boxers have fought toe-to-toe against the best that America could produce and on many occasions came out on top.

Speaking about his book, Gareth Jones said:

"Wales has always punched above its weight in the boxing ring. The United States, with 100 times the population, may have been the dominant player in the sport, but St David has done remarkably well against Goliath over the 120 years since the first bout in 1894.

"The Americans drooled over 'Peerless' Jim Driscoll and Jimmy Wilde also demonstrated his right to be considered one of the greatest of all time."

The book features a host of famous fights which have gone into national folklore such as when Tommy Farr fought Joe Louis in 1937; Colin Jones' two battles against Milton McCrory in 1983; and the tragic fight between Johnny Owen and Lupe Pintor in 1980 which ended in the death of the Merthyr Matchstick.

Gareth Jones added: "In more recent years, Joe Calzaghe's masterclass against Jeff Lacy finally convinced the American doubters, before he completed his unbeaten career by beating legends Bernard Hopkins and Roy Jones, Jr. in front of their own people."

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Quins hold off Kenfig Hill



Youth player
Lewis Courtney.
PICTURE BY
KAY GRIFFITHS



LEFT: Aaron Grabham races away from the opposition while BELOW: Jon Thomas puts his body on the line to block a Maesteg Quins kick.

Unfortunately for Kenfig Hill, they fell just short, losing 18-13.

PICTURES BY PETER GILLING

BEFORE the game between Kenfig Hill XV and Maesteg Quins, a minute's silence was held in memory of former Maesteg Quins captain Rhodri Roberts and former Kenfig Hill captain/teammate manager Rhodri Evans, who sadly passed away recently.

This was never going to be a free flowing running rugby match with so much at stake between the two top sides in the division.

The game was a nip and tuck affair in the first half with young Maesteg Quins fullback Owen Howe converting three penalties to one to the Mules by outside half Lloyd Giles.

The Mules finished the first half with a well finished try by Aaron Grabham to make the score 9-8 to the Quins.

There was not a lot to shout about in the second half from a rugby point of view. The Mules managed a forward-created try for the hooker Daryl Harvey and the Quins, again via Daryl Howe, converted another three penalties making the final score 18-13 to the Maesteg Quins.

KENFIG HILL

SECOND XV 55
NEWPORT HSOB 12
Kenfig Hill's young side kept their winning streak going with this win over Newport HSOB.

The Mules' skillful backs scored some excellent tries as they tired out their heavier opponents. Newport scored two push-over tries in the second half to ease their pain but Kenfig Hill were comfortable victors at the end.

Chris Leyshon and Curtis Kerton were the pick of the Mules side.

Tries: C Leyshon, P Shadis, C Kerton (3), Matt Burnell (2) L Rogers, P Heatley.

Conversions - L Rogers (5).

WAUNARLWYDD YOUTH 27

KHRFC YOUTH 19
The Kenfig Hill coach knew things weren't going to be easy with a shortage of forwards on the day resulting in uncontested scrums and backs having to play in the forwards; Waunarlwydd being third in the league was not going to help either.

Waunarlwydd kicked off and quickly won a penalty which outside half McDermott easily converted to give them a three point lead. Kenfig Hill just didn't seem up for the game with too

many missed tackles and wrong decisions.

It wasn't long before they got punished for this, when Waunarlwydd centre Harris scored under the posts, McDermott adding the two points. Shortly after Waunarlwydd's powerful pack, after several pick up and drives, crashed over the line, scoring via their hooker Cherry; McDermott was unlucky to miss the conversion.

The Mules did finally wake up when, from a scrum, Tantum showed great awareness to go blind and score in the corner.

Griffiths narrowly missed the conversion from the touchline.

Waunarlwydd forwards soon took control again and scored a great try from a line out, driving back Cornelly several meters for their number eight Young to score in the corner. McDermott was again very unlucky with the conversion, this time hitting the post.

After a stern talking to from the Mules coaches the second half was a different story. Kenfig Hill started to play a much better game. Fantastic defence in particular by Joyce and Grant giving better field position and the Mules were soon rewarded for their hard work when outside half Griffiths

scored a great individual try and also added the two points.

At this point the Mules started to believe they could win; Waunarlwydd seemed to also sense this and at every opportunity they slowed the game down, conceding numerous penalties, each time Griffiths opting for the touchline to keep the pressure on.

Yet another penalty was conceded by Waunarlwydd when their hooker blatantly stopped Tantum from taking a quick penalty and by this time the referee had lost patience issuing a yellow card.

Tantum, who was lively all game, started the attack from a tap penalty, offloaded to the forwards and ended the move himself with a try close to the touchline.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

RGC prove too strong for the travelling Bridgend Athletic

BRIDGEND Athletic made the long trip up to Colwyn Bay in the morning to face RGC 1404 and would have hoped for a better start after their journey, failing to gather the kick off and forcing outside half Josh White to make a rushed clearance.

From the next passage of play the Athletic conceded a penalty where RGC took the positive step of going for the corner. The resulting pressure stretched the Athletic, and Wales' under-20s centre Afon Bagshaw crossed for a try wide out with only three minutes on the clock; the conversion was unsuccessful.

The Athletic kicked off but RGC broke out and were forced into touch five yards out from the Athletic line. They won their own lineout but the clearance was charged down, going behind the dead ball line for a five yard scrum.

The Ath were awarded a penalty at the set piece and cleared to near halfway. An overthrow gave RGC another opportunity to attack but the Athletic managed a turnover on their 22, sparking off a good counter attack to claw themselves back into the game and in the 17th minute a penalty was awarded to the Athletic for a ruck offence which Josh White slotted from 22 yards.

However, the Athletic again failed to gather the kick off and near pressure from RGC resulted in a try after some poor tackling, which was

converted by Rhodri Carlton-Jones.

The Athletic now fought back after their shaky start with wing Dan Howells coming within five yards only for RGC to scramble away a clearance. This more promising spell of play for the Ath ended with no reward with the home side taking advantage of further tackling lapses to increase their lead to 17-8.

Then, from a ruck on halfway, scrum half Jake Williams broke blind and made 30 yards before feeding hooker Iestyn Merriman to gallop the rest of the way to make the halftime score 17-8.

The Athletic exerted a massive amount of pressure on RGC early in the second period with a succession of driving lineouts and scrums close to the opposition's line several times crossing the line only to be held up.

Perhaps frustration at the lack of reward led to a rash decision to go for a drop goal which was ruined by a collision between the kicker and a fellow team mate which enabled RGC to break out for a Tom Seddon try, converted by Rhodri Carlton-Jones, which settled the encounter despite the Athletic having a further strong period of pressure again with no reward.

The Athletic blotted their copybook in the last three minutes, conceding two more converted tries, and were left to ponder on a performance which contained too many missed tackles and simple mistakes and they will need to tighten up considerably before meeting undefeated leaders Bargoed at Newbridge Fields this week.

Bruno still packs a punch (as a top after dinner speaker!)



FRANK EXCHANGE:
Bruno opens up on life before and after boxing.

THE giant figure strolls amiably into the function room at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, instantly recognisable as the people's champion he once was, as the entire lunchtime gathering rise to their feet to greet him with warm chants of "Bruno...o Bruno...o"

Nearly two decades after he hung up his gloves, Frank Bruno MBE still retains the aura and self-effacing manner that endeared him to a nation fascinated by the true-life, rags-to-riches story of a troubled youngster from a humble London background, who went on to realise his dream of becoming world heavyweight boxing champion in 1995.

An admitted 'problem child', he began boxing at the tender age of eight and went on to become the youngest ever British amateur champion at the age of 18 with a record of 20 wins, one loss (which he subsequently avenged).

His remarkable professional career saw him win 40 of his 45 bouts (38 by way of knockout) before it was ended by an eye injury in losing his WBC title to fearsome 'Iron' Mike Tyson in 1996.

Like Henry Cooper before him, his modesty, good humour, and tongue-in-cheek, self-deprecating wit are legendary qualities that explain his enduring appeal, all of which were in evidence on his first visit to the Vale town - though he was very quick to point out: "I've been to Wales many times. Welsh boxing fans love their sport and many used to travel to watch me during my career."

"I bump into Welsh people all over Europe who tell me where they saw me box, or what they were doing when they watched one of my fights on TV."

Despite early obstacles, the young Bruno clung tenaciously to his dream - "the more setbacks I had, the more determined I was to succeed."

These are qualities that stood him in good stead after he retired when he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder that required medical treatment (about which he is typically candid) before he could resume public life, this time as an entertainer and much in demand after-dinner speaker.

His humour shines through when he is asked - what is the hardest punch to defend against? The answer comes swift as a right hook - "The one you don't see!"

Who was the hardest puncher he faced? "The taxman!" he says, before adding more seriously that it wasn't Tyson, but one Jumbo Cummings.

Promising to return soon to meet his still loyal army of Welsh fans, he adds - "I still have to learn the Welsh national anthem in Welsh, but I can say Kroy-so ee Gumree!"

And this nicest of sporting legends departs to a standing ovation and more chants of 'Bruno...o Bruno...o' ringing in his ears.

Don John

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